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...day May 30 1998

THE UNIVERSITY ... SERIALS DIVISION

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Carl Hiaasen

How Disney destroyed Florida

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Arnold Kemp in Paris

New French resistance fights World Cup fever

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Return of the nuclear age

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29 children die and four brain-damaged in 53 operations ☐ Colleagues warned of dangers

Doctors ignored baby death toll

Parents denounce inquiry and claim compensation

Sarah Boseley
Health Correspondent

BRITAIN'S biggest ever medical disciplinary inquiry ended dramatically last night when three doctors were found to have risked babies' lives by continuing with heart operations even though their death rates were well above average.

The case has enormous consequences for the self-regulation of doctors and the autonomy of hospital trusts. James Wisheart, aged 60, was not only the senior children's heart surgeon but also medical director of the United Bristol Healthcare Trust and James Roylance, 67, was its chief executive. Janardan Dhasmana, 58, was the junior surgeon.

None of them listened to colleagues who urged that the operations should stop — warnings that continued for five years.

The General Medical Council looked at 53 operations on babies, 29 of whom died and four of whom were brain-damaged. By the time of his last hole in the heart operation on a baby, Mr Wisheart's mortality rate had reached 60 per cent, compared with a national average at the time of 14 per cent. In the arterial switch procedure, to correct a back to front heart, Mr Dhasmana had a two in three death rate, compared to the national average of one in 10.

After a record seven months of hearings, the GMC's professional standards committee concluded yesterday that the operations on six babies, five of whom died, should not have taken place.

But the parents of children who died or were brain-damaged during heart operations at the Bristol Royal Infirmary yesterday denounced the GMC investigation.

They claimed the committee had examined "only the tip of the iceberg". Malcolm Curnow, one of the members of the Bristol Children's Heart Group, said he knew of 91 children who were dead or damaged. Only a public inquiry could uncover "the full horror story of injustice and betrayal imposed on parents and families".

Acknowledging that justice needs to be seen to be done, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has been discussing with the parents for weeks the scope of the independent inquiry he has promised, even though the GMC will not decide what action to take against the doctors — it could strike them off, admonish or clear them — until mid-June.

It is unlikely to begin until next year, because the doctors will probably appeal against the GMC verdict to the Privy Council.

The parents believe the GMC should not have been allowed to police its own members. The committee did not look at brain-damaged children and its traditional remit did not allow it to investigate the competence of the surgeons, even though Mr Wisheart was said to be too slow and Mr Dhasmana was alleged never to have "got beyond the learning curve" in operations on tiny babies.

A distraught Jim Stewart, father of Ian, who was the only brain-damaged child to be considered in the original charges but whose case was later struck out, interrupted Sir Donald Irvine, president of the GMC, as he gave his ruling, denouncing "this sham of a hearing".

The parents allege that the surgeons' high rates of death and brain-damage were known to the medical profession and yet nothing was done for several years. This context was not explored at the GMC.

Two cardiologists and an anaesthetist working at the Bristol Royal Infirmary at the time have received what are known as "Chapter XV letters" from the GMC, warning that their conduct may be open to question. Their lawyers advised them not to give evidence at the GMC inquiry as a result.

Medical bodies have set extensive reforms in train. Stephen Bolsin, the anaesthetist at the hospital who did his best to get the operations stopped by circulating his data to colleagues, was tarred as a whistle-blower and left for a job in Australia, alleging he was frozen out of the profession in the UK.

The Department of Health has already warned the profession that it is no longer acceptable for doctors to be a law unto themselves.

The British Medical Association and the Royal Colleges, reading the writing on the wall, have in the last few weeks issued guidance to doctors, urging them to audit themselves. They and the GMC have told doctors that whistle-blowing on inadequate colleagues is not dishonourable but a duty.

The GMC, which has spent £2.2 million on its inquiry, found yesterday that Mr Wisheart had ignored four separate warnings from colleagues and proceeded with hole in the heart operations on March 28,1994 on nine-month-old Matthew Rundle and then on November 25, 1993 on Hanna Silcox, also nine months old.

It found that Mr Dhasmana was made aware in November 1994 of his colleagues' concerns about his failure rate in the arterial switch procedure in babies under 28 days old. By that time, eight out of of 11 babies had died. But he carried on. His next patient lived, but on October 12, 1993, Niall McKelvey, 15 days old, died.

An operation by Mr Dhasmana on 18-month-old Joshua Loveday on January 12, 1998, brought things to crisis point. Mr Dhasmana should not have gone ahead.

Mr Wisheart was given at least five warnings, but he gave his approval even though, said the GMC committee, "you ought to have know that the operation was not in Joshua Loveday's best interests". Joshua died.

Mr Roylance had been told by a number of professionals, including an official of the Department of Health, that the death rates were too high.

He failed to act or take advice other than from Mr Wisheart "and other clinicians whose acts of omission were in question".



James Wisheart and wife Janet confronted by James Stewart, father of Ian, who suffered brain damage during an operation, outside the GMC yesterday PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL CRABTREE

What happens next

☐ The GMC will decide what action to take against the doctors in mid-June. It could strike them off the register, admonish or clear them.

☐ If disciplined, the doctors are likely to appeal to the Privy Council. This could take 10 months to set up.

☐ Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has promised an independent inquiry, but is negotiating its remit, chairman and whether it should be public with the parents. Not likely before next year.

☐ Civil claims are being filed. Tozers in Exeter are pursuing 35 cases — 25 in which children died.

☐ The GMC has begun performance assessment of doctors thought sub-standard. With the British Medical Association and Royal Colleges it has urged doctors to audit their work.

'More tests' for Pakistan

New warnings in continued confrontation

Suzanne Goldenberg in Islamabad, M. K. Narayan in New Delhi and Ian Black in London

INDIA and Pakistan, the world's two newest nuclear nations, kept up their confrontation yesterday amid Western fears that Islamabad planned to carry out more tests and arm its missiles with nuclear warheads.

While Pakistan's foreign minister, Gohar Ayub Khan, swore no surrender to New Delhi's efforts at regional domination, a senior official said Islamabad's nuclear programme was strictly for defence.

Mr Ayub has refused to offer a moratorium on testing.

In New Delhi, meanwhile, the Indian prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, repeated an offer of "no first strike" assurances but warned Pakistan not to think it could conquer the disputed territory of Kashmir.

But United States officials cast doubt on the nature and success of the five nuclear explosions claimed by Pakistan on Thursday.

Washington said it had detected a single, relatively weak seismic signal and believed that at least two of the bombs lowered beneath the earth in the Chagai hills of Baluchistan were not detonated.

US intelligence also reported preparations for additional tests. "We believe that dangers remain," said Mike McCurry, the White-house spokesman.

US spy satellites surveying a second test site have seen signs of the same kind of activity spotted 48 hours before Thursday's tests, said one US official.

Mr McCurry said the US message to India and Pakistan "tells both countries that further testing and further efforts to weaponise military capabilities would worsen rather than improve the situation".

Officials in Islamabad have yet to release details of the tests, but a former director of the Atomic Energy Commission said it was doubtful whether India or Pakistan had tested a hydrogen bomb, despite claims to the contrary by New Delhi.

"It is rather difficult and demanding to make a hydrogen bomb for India and Pakistan," said Dr Munir Ahmed Khan.

American officials are hopeful that the political dynamic of the situation will change once the euphoria produced in both India and Pakistan by their respective tests passes and economic sanctions begin to bite.

Britain was yesterday leading efforts by the G8 industrial countries to convene an emergency meeting of foreign ministers, possibly in London, to discuss the crisis. India and Pakistan will be invited but diplomats admitted there was no guarantee they would attend.

Hopes for maximising international pressure have already been weakened by the variation in response. The US has imposed tough economic sanctions but Europe prefers to try to persuade India and Pakistan to talk and to sign up to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

Mr Vajpayee disregarded widespread opposition calls

turn to page 2, col 6



Greenpeace activists at Pakistan's Greek embassy yesterday

Nuclear crisis, pages 6 and 7; Martin Woollacott, page 8; Mark Lawson, page 9

Low technology key to jail security

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE hi-tech private prison billed as the first to abandon old-style locks and keys has had to go back to traditional mechanical methods.

Staff at Securicor's Parc prison, near Bridgend, south Wales, have found that the computer-controlled remote locking system is so slow it has made moving around the prison almost impossible.

A recent visitor to the prison reported: "As we came out of the segregation unit the officer pressed the button and nothing happened for ages and then the wrong door opened."

Inmates will once again hear the familiar sound of keys turning followed by the crashing of doors as staff override the computer system.

Securicor has also had to abandon a hi-tech "pod" system under which a single custody officer stood at a control desk on each wing. The theory was that one officer could remotely unlock every cell door on the wing while keeping an eye on all 78 inmates.

But inmates failed to respect a yellow "no parking" line around the consoles and crowded the single custody officer, making it impossible for him to keep an eye on the wings.

A Securicor spokesman said: "There have been problems with the technology that we are rectifying. All new prisons, whether they are private or not, experience difficulties during their first six to 12 months."

There is concern at the highest levels about the operation of the prison. Securicor's only one, which opened last November. Joyce Quin, the prisons minister, has visited and asked for a full report. Richard Tilt, director general of the Prison Service, acknowledged yesterday that things were "not right".

Two inmates have committed suicide and riot squads been brought in from Swansea Prison.

Securicor has been fined more than once for failing to meet its contract, and Mr Tilt indicated that further fines were likely.

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Sum assured £50,000 20 year term	Pay Annually	Total paid over 20 year term	Saving with Direct Line
Direct Line	£113.94	£2,661.60	
Abbey National Life	£164.30	£3,943.20	£631.20
Millennium Life	£165.67	£3,976.08	£664.08

Source: Life and Pensions MoneyFacts – April 1998

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Woodward selling her story

Nick Hopkins on how the once solid defence team behind the British au pair in Boston has cracked

Nick Hopkins

LOUISE Woodward's defence team was in turmoil yesterday over claims that the au pair has negotiated lucrative deals to sell her story.

Woodward, aged 20, who was convicted of killing eight-month-old Matthew Eappen last October, has always maintained that her only concern is to clear her name and return to Britain.

But Elaine Whitfield-Sharp, one of her lawyers, believes Woodward has held protracted discussions with publishers. She learnt that talks were being arranged behind her back, without the knowledge of Andrew Good, Harvey Silverglate, and Barry Scheck, the other attorneys in the case.

Ms Whitfield-Sharp believes that the Woodwards have already received £40,000 from one newspaper, and she complained to the family that the deals constituted a huge breach of trust.

In a taped conversation with a friend published in yesterday's Mirror newspaper, Ms Whitfield-Sharp referred to Woodward as a "lying monster", and said she had doubts about the appeal fund which raised almost £250,000 to help pay her legal fees.

Throughout last year's trial, Ms Whitfield-Sharp insisted that Woodward would not make money out of the case, arguing that public support for her would evaporate if she tried to cash in.

Woodward herself was adamant. On the day she was freed last November, she said: "I have no intention of exploiting this tragedy. It is not a subject for sensationalism or profiteering."

Woodward had been living at Ms Whitfield-Sharp's house in Marblehead, Massachusetts, but moved out recently after the breakdown of their relationship.

The rift has come at a delicate time for the au pair, who is awaiting the outcome of prosecution and defence appeals that could see her sent back to jail with a minimum of 15 years before parole, or cleared of involuntary manslaughter and allowed to return home.

The suspicion that Woodward is touting her story raises uncomfortable questions for the media. The Press Complaints Commission expressly forbids payments to convicted criminals unless there is a public interest defence.

Last week, substantial sums were paid by two tabloid newspapers to nurses Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, who were convicted in Saudi Arabia of killing Yvonne Gilford but released early after the intervention of King Fahd.

Neither Woodward nor Ms Whitfield-Sharp was prepared to talk about the row yesterday, or the allegations that the au pair was attempting to sell her story. Woodward's mother also refused to comment.

But Tim Hunt, a British expatriate in Marblehead who is a close friend of the Woodwards, admitted there were divisions in the defence camp.

"Louise is no longer living with Elaine. She moved out quite some time ago. It would be fair to say they are not as friendly as they were before. They no longer see eye to eye," he said.

Ms Whitfield-Sharp's concerns about Woodward's alleged duplicity have surfaced twice in the past few days. According to the Mirror, the lawyer said she had been flabbergasted to learn that Woodward was negotiating behind her back, and had allegedly received money from the Daily Mail.

"The agreement was that the Woodwards would never make any money on this at all," she said. "I don't want to be a part of this."

According to the Mirror, Ms Whitfield-Sharp said Woodward and her mother engineered a meeting with publishers by saying they were going to dinner with Mr Silverglate.

"While they were out supposedly with him, he telephoned me. I asked if he was having dinner with Louise and Sue and he said no. Some hours later Sue and Louise came back. I asked if they had enjoyed their dinner with Harvey and they said yes."

Ms Whitfield-Sharp was horrified that the Woodwards appeared to be negotiating deals before the appeal court's verdict. "Doesn't that show a certain arrogance?" she said.

On the tapes, Ms Whitfield-Sharp also questioned whether the appeal fund was fully accountable, and claimed she had not been paid for six months.

But the Rev Ken Davey, chairman of the trust fund, angrily denied the suggestion. "Any allegations that there is no accountability would be downright lies," he said.

Paul Barrow, solicitor for the fund, said Ms Whitfield-Sharp had been paid. "I can show you the invoice she submitted and the date it was paid, which was about two weeks ago."

Earlier in the week, the Boston Globe newspaper reported that Ms Whitfield-Sharp now doubted Woodward's innocence. The claim was based on her alleged comments to a state trooper when she was arrested for drink-driving.

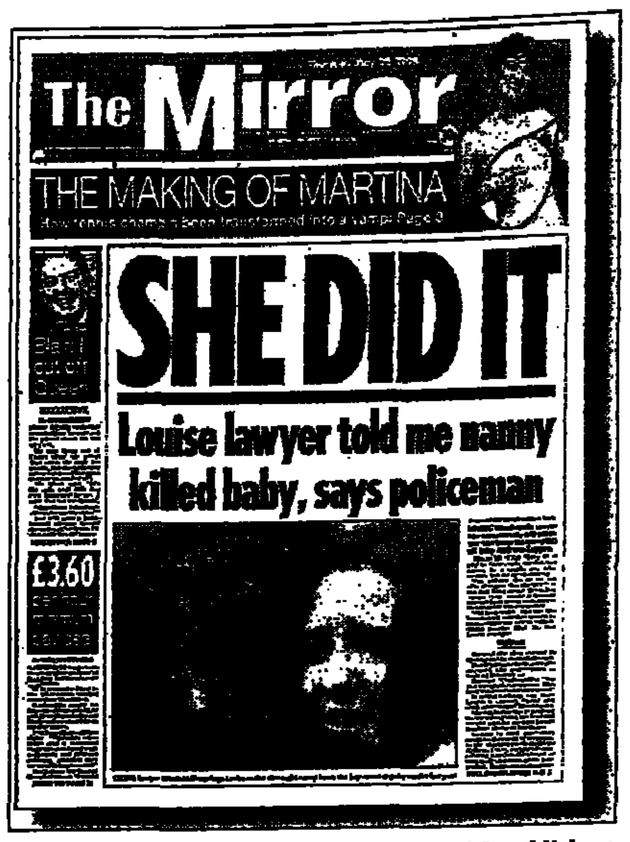
To Ms Whitfield-Sharp's acute embarrassment, the officer's report said the lawyer blamed her arrest on the stress of representing the Briton and the fact that "I know she is guilty and I can't handle it".

Ms Whitfield-Sharp has furiously denied the remarks and accused the officer of harassing her.



Louise Woodward: moved out of her attorney's house after the breakdown of their relationship

'I have no intention of exploiting this tragedy. It is not a subject for sensationalism or profiteering'
Louise Woodward on day she was freed



Elaine Whitfield-Sharp: learnt that talks with publishers were being arranged without her knowledge

'The agreement was that the Woodwards would never make any money on this at all. I don't want to be a part of this'
Elaine Whitfield-Sharp, quoted yesterday

Britain urges end to arms ban

Richard Norton-Taylor

BRITAIN is pressing the United Nations to lift the Sierra Leone weapons embargo which lies at the heart of the arms-to-Africa affair.

The new twist in the controversy surrounding the supply of arms to the west African country by British security company Sandline was announced yesterday by the Foreign Office.

It said it was urging the UN Security Council to agree to a new resolution allowing weapons sales to President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's government. It would also lift a ban on arms sales to the Nigerian-led west African Ecomog forces that restored the elected president to power, even though Nigeria itself is covered by a separate European Union and Commonwealth arms embargo.

The Foreign Office insisted yesterday that the UN recognised that the Ecomog forces were doing an important job and that a UN embargo would remain on sales to rebels still fighting in Sierra Leone.

UN lawyers last week added to Foreign Office embarrassment over the affair by implying that the resolution, passed last year, was directed solely against the military junta then in power in Sierra Leone.

However, the Foreign Office has insisted the embargo applied to all participants in the Sierra Leone conflict, including President Kabbah's supporters and Ecomog forces.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

Today

	max	min	weather
Algiers	25	17	F
Amsterdam	21	12	F
Athens	27	18	F
Berlin	24	15	Sh
Bonn	22	13	F
Brussels	22	14	F
Copenhagen	21	12	Th
Crete	25	17	F
Geneva	21	13	F
Larnaca	27	18	S
London	22	13	F
Madrid	19	10	R
Milan	25	15	F
Nice	22	16	F
Oslo	20	10	F
Paris	23	13	Sh
Rome	23	13	F
Stockholm	15	5	F
Tunis	29	18	S
Vienna	26	14	F

Tomorrow

	max	min	weather
Algiers	26	16	F
Amsterdam	21	13	Sh
Athens	28	18	F
Berlin	22	13	Sh
Bonn	22	13	Sh
Brussels	21	13	Sh
Copenhagen	17	10	F
Crete	25	17	S
Geneva	20	12	Th
Larnaca	27	18	S
London	21	12	Sh
Madrid	21	12	C
Milan	25	16	F
Nice	22	16	Sh
Oslo	20	10	F
Paris	20	12	Sh
Rome	24	14	F
Stockholm	15	5	F
Tunis	29	19	S
Vienna	25	14	F

Monday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	27	18	F
Amsterdam	20	12	Sh
Athens	28	19	F
Berlin	22	12	Sh
Bonn	21	11	Sh
Brussels	21	12	Th
Copenhagen	17	10	F
Crete	24	17	F
Geneva	21	13	F
Larnaca	27	18	S
London	21	12	Sh
Madrid	25	14	F
Milan	27	16	F
Nice	23	17	F
Oslo	20	10	F
Paris	22	14	F
Rome	25	15	F
Stockholm	19	7	F
Tunis	31	20	S
Vienna	23	14	Sh

Tuesday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	28	18	F
Amsterdam	22	13	F
Athens	28	20	F
Berlin	20	13	Sh
Bonn	22	12	F
Brussels	22	14	F
Copenhagen	17	10	Sh
Crete	26	18	F
Geneva	24	14	F
Larnaca	27	18	S
London	23	13	Sh
Madrid	25	12	Sh
Milan	27	17	F
Nice	24	16	F
Oslo	19	11	Sh
Paris	23	15	F
Rome	26	15	F
Stockholm	19	7	F
Tunis	31	20	S
Vienna	23	15	F

C, cloudy; Cl, clear; Dr, drizzle; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, hail; Hz, haze; R, rain; Sh, showers; Sl, sleet; Sn, snow; S, sunny; Th, thunder. *(previous day's readings)

Around the world

Lunchtime yesterday (previous day in Americas)

		C	F
Ajaccio	F	21	70
Amsterdam	C	18	64
Anchorage	C	14	57
Athens	C	23	73
Atlanta	C	29	84
B Aires	F	15	59
Barbados	F	30	86
Barcelona	F	21	70
Belgrade	C	25	77
Berlin	C	27	81
Bermuda	C	25	77
Biarritz	C	21	70
Bombay	F	33	91
Bordeaux	C	21	70
Boston	S	27	81
Brisbane	S	22	72
Brussels	F	19	66
Budapest	F	27	81
Cairo	F	28	82
Calcutta	C	36	97
Calgary	C	14	57
Cape Town	F	19	66
Casablanca	F	22	72
Chicago	F	27	81
Christchurch	F	15	59
Corfu	R	19	66
Dakar	S	25	77
Dallas	S	33	91
Darwin	S	30	86
Dhaka	Sh	35	95
Dublin	C	12	54
Florence	C	20	68
Frankfurt	C	18	64
Geneva	F	18	64
Gibraltar	C	21	70
Hamburg	C	22	72
Helsinki	S	20	68
Hong Kong	C	31	88
Honolulu	F	29	84
Innsbruck	C	19	66
Istanbul	M	20	68
Jersey	S	15	59
Jerusalem	S	26	79
Jo'burg	S	15	59
Karachi	S	36	97
Kiev	F	22	72
Kingston	Sh	32	90
Larnaca	C	25	77
Lima	S	26	79
Lisbon	R	17	63
London	F	18	64
Los Angeles	C	19	66
Luxembourg	C	16	61
Madrid	R	15	59
Majorca	S	23	73
Malaga	R	22	72
Malta	Th	22	72
Mecca	F	45	113
Melbourne	C	15	59
Mexico City	S	28	82
Miami	R	27	81
Milan	C	18	64
Montreal	F	26	79
Moscow	C	17	63
Munich	C	20	68
Nairobi	C	21	70
Naples	M	22	72
New Delhi	S	43	109
New Orleans	C	30	86
New York	F	28	82
Nice	S	21	70
Oslo	S	22	72
Paris	F	17	63
Perth	F	19	66
Prague	S	25	77
Reykjavik	C	12	54
Rhodes	C	24	75
Rio de Jan.	C	22	72
Rome	F	23	73
Sarajevo	C	20	68
Singapore	C	32	90
Stockholm	F	17	63
Strasbourg	Sh	17	63
Sydney	S	20	68
Tel Aviv	C	25	77
Tenerife	S	23	73
Tokyo	R	21	70
Toronto	C	27	81
Tunis	F	25	77
Valencia	F	24	75
Vancouver	S	16	61
Venice	R	17	63
Vienna	F	26	79
Warsaw	S	25	77
Washington	F	24	75
Zurich	C	15	59

European weather outlook

Scandinavia:
Northern and western coasts of Norway will be cloudy with light rain in places. Remaining parts of Scandinavia will be dry with sunny spells, the best of the sunshine in Sweden. Max temps will vary from 22C (72F) at best in southern parts to 9C (48F) along northern coasts of Norway.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:
Overnight mist and fog will slowly clear in places, otherwise it will be dry with plenty of sunshine in all parts. Max temps generally in the 17-21C (63-70F) range.

France:
Early fog will linger in places before clearing then all parts will have long sunny spells. There is however a risk of showers, possibly thundery, breaking out in central and southern France. Max temps will be generally in the 21-26C (70-79F) range.

Spain and Portugal:
All parts are at risk of showers during the day and a few of the showers are likely to be heavy and possibly thundery, especially towards Mediterranean coasts. There will, however, be some sunshine in most parts as well, with the best of the sunshine in the Algarve. Max temps will be generally in the 22-26C (72-79F) range but it will be a little cooler along northern coasts of Spain.

Italy:
A mixture of sunny spells and scattered showers. The showers possibly heavy and prolonged in southern parts. Max temps will be in the 20-26C (68-79F) range.

Greece:
It will be cloudy with rain, the rain heavy with thundery downpours in many parts. Max temps will be in the 20-23C (68-73F) range but will locally be lower in the heaviest of the rain.

Television and radio — Saturday

BBC 1

8.00am The Munsters. 8.25 News. 8.30 Saturday Aardvark. 8.40 Free Willy. 9.05 The Raccoons. 9.30 Bruno the Kid. 9.55 Ship to Shore. 10.20 The Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show. 10.45 Grange Hill. 11.15 Student Bodies. 11.40 The Pop Zone. 12.00 FILM: Miracle in the Wilderness. 1.27 Weather. 1.30 Grandstand. 6.00 News. 6.10 Regional News and Sport. 6.15 Are You Being Served? 6.45 Whatever You Want. 7.35 Due South. 8.20 The National Lottery Big Ticket. 9.10 City Central. 9.59 National Lottery Update. 10.00 Silent Witness. 10.50 News. 11.10 Silent Witness. 12.00 The Bee Gees: One Night Only. 1.00 The Ben Elton Show. 1.30 FILM: Cat Chaser. 2.55 Top of the Pops. 3.25 Weather. 3.30 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

7.10am Open University. 9.00 Weekend 24. 10.00 Open Saturday. 11.40 News Review. 11.55 The Whitbread Round the World Race. 12.25 Alias Smith and Jones. 1.15 The Norman Cannes Conquest: A Film '98 Special. 1.55 FILM: Reap the Wild Wind. 3.55 Arena. 5.05 The Virginian. 6.20 FILM: The Man from Snowy River. 8.00 News and Sport. 8.15 Correspondent Special. 9.00 Windrush. 10.00 FILM: *Patton: Lust for Glory.* 12.40 Stella Street. 12.55 Reputations. 1.45 FILM: Girls in Prison. 3.15 Weather. 3.20 Close. 4.00 Learning Zone. 6.00 Close.

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.25 World Weather. 7.30 Mr Wymi. 7.45 Bitsa. 8.00 Noddy. 8.10 The Really Wild Show. 8.35 Aquila. 9.00 Blue Peter. 9.25 The Prince and the Pauper. 10.00 Dr Who: The Hand of Fear. 10.25 Style Challenge. 10.50 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 11.20 World Weather. 11.30 EastEnders. 12.50 Animals in Uniform. 1.20 Kilroy. 2.00 Style Challenge. 2.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 3.00 The Duchess of Duke Street. 3.50 World Weather. 3.55 Mortimer and Arabel. 4.10 Get Your Own Back. 4.35 Blue Peter. 5.05 The Wild House. 5.30 Dr Who. 6.00 World News. 6.25 World Weather. 6.30 One Man and His Dog. 7.00 Open All Hours. 7.30 Porridge. 8.00 Miss Marple. 9.00 Signs and Wonders. 10.00 World News. 10.25 World Weather. 10.30 Ruby's Health Quest. 11.00 Top of the Pops. 11.30 Coogan's Run. 12.00 Shooting Stars. 12.30 Cool Britannia. 1.30 The Nature of Impacts and Their Impacts on Nature.

BBC World

● Eutelsat

7.00am World News. 7.30 World Focus: Panorama. 8.00 World News. 8.30 Earth Report. 9.00 World News. 9.30 Hard Talk. 10.00 World News. 10.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 11.00 World Headlines. 11.05 Pole to Pole. 12.00 World News. 12.30 Holiday. 1.00 World News. 1.30 This Week. 2.00 World Headlines. 2.05 Horizons. 3.00 World News. 3.30 Film '98 with Barry Norman. 4.00 World Headlines. 4.05 When Rover Met BMW. 5.00 World Headlines. 5.05 Pole to Pole. 6.00 World News. 6.30 Holiday. 7.00 World News. 7.30 This Week. 8.00 World News. 8.30 *World Focus: Correspondent.* 9.00 World Headlines. 9.05 Horizons. 10.00 World News. 10.30 Top Gear. 11.00 World News. 11.30 Hard Talk. 12.00 World News. 12.30 Simpson's World. 1.00 World Headlines. 1.05 When Rover Met BMW. 2.00 News. 2.30 Film '98 with Barry Norman. 3.00 News. 3.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 4.00 News. 4.30 Simpson's World. 5.00 World News. 5.30 Hard Talk. 6.00 News. 6.30 This Week.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz; 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am News Briefing. 7.05 Sports Desk. 7.10 Open Country. 7.57 Weather. 8.00 Today. 10.00 Home Truths. 11.00 News; Loose Ends. 12.00 News; The Food Programme. 12.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 1.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 1.00 News; Money Box. 1.30 The News Quiz. 1.55 Weather. 2.00 News. 2.15 Any Questions? 3.00 News; Any Answers? (0173 580 4444. 3.30 The Ladies' Room. 4.00 News; The Saturday Play: The Burning Glass. 5.00 News; Weekend Woman's Hour. 6.00 Saturday PM. 6.30 Talking Pictures. 6.54 Shipping Forecast. 6.57 Weather. 7.00 Six O' Clock News. 7.15 Talk of New York. 8.00 Saturday Review. 8.45 American Voices. 9.00 The Archive Hour: Going Up. 10.00 News; The Classic Serial: Effi Briest. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Moral Maze. 12.00 News; Late Night on 4: The Man Who Was Comedy. 12.30 A Night With. 1.00 News. 1.25 Nightsongs. 1.30 The Late Story: California. 1.48 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service. 6.30 World News. 6.35 Shipping Forecast. 6.40 Inshore Forecast. 6.50 Bells on Sunday.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on MW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (1515m)

7.00am Newsday. 7.30 Science in Action. 8.00 News. 8.15 The New Europe. 8.30 Meridian Feature. 9.00 News. 9.15 From the Weeklies. 9.30 Quote, Unquote. 10.00 News. 10.10 Pause for Thought. 10.15 On Your Behalf. 10.30 Andy Kershaw's World of Music. 11.00 News. 11.05 World Business Review. 11.15 The Works. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Crisis in the House of David. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 People and Politics. 2.00 News; (648 only) News in German. 2.05 World Business Review. 2.15 A Jolly Good Show. 2.45 Short Story. 3.00 Newshour. 4.00 News. 4.05 Sportsworld. 5.00 News. 5.05 Sportsworld. 6.00 News. 6.15 Sportsworld. 6.30 (648 only) News in German. 7.00 News. 7.15 Weekend. 7.45 Sports Round-Up. 8.00 Newsdesk. 8.30 Science in Action. 9.00 News. 9.01 Westway. 9.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 10.00 Newshour. 11.00 News. 11.05 World Business Review. 11.15 Britain Today. 11.30 Meridian Live. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Play of the Week: Voices on the Wind. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Letter from America. 2.45 Britain Today. 3.00 Newsdesk. 3.30 On Your Behalf. 3.45 Sports Round-Up. 4.00 Newsday. 4.30 Music Review. 5.00 News. 5.05 World Business Review. 5.15 Sports Round-Up. 5.30 *From Our Own Correspondent.* 6.00 Newsdesk. 6.30 Global Business.

Sky Movies Screen 1

● Astra

7.00 The Games. 8.40 Deadfall. 10.40 My Very Best Friend. 12.20 Ed. 2.00 Deadfall. 4.00 The Buddy System. 6.00 Ed. 8.00 My Very Best Friend. 10.00 Tin Cup. 12.15 Sugar Hill. 2.20 Nothing But Trouble. 4.00 Nicky and Gino.

Sky Movies Screen 2

● Astra

7.00 *Un Lugar en el Mundo.* 9.00 O Henry's Full House. 11.00 Bachelor Flat. 1.00 Project: Alf. 3.00 When Innocence is Lost. 5.00 Bachelor Flat. 7.00 Project: Alf. 9.00 The Underworld. 11.00 The Long Kiss Goodnight. 1.00 Undercover. 2.40 The Long Kiss Goodnight. 4.40 The Babysitter.

Sky Sports

● Astra

7.00 American Football: End Zone. 8.00 Sports Centre. 8.30 Cycling. 9.00 Aerobics Oz Style. 9.30 Racing News. 10.00 NBA Basketball. 11.30 Live European PGA Golf: Deutsche Bank Open. 1.30 International Football. 3.30 Futbol Mundial. 4.00 Live European PGA Golf: Deutsche Bank Open. 6.00 Futbol Mundial. 6.30 Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook. 8.00 Cycling. 8.30 Stunt Motorcycling. 9.30 Live Saturday Fight Night. 12.00 International Rugby Union. 2.00 European PGA Golf: Deutsche Bank Open. 4.00 Cycling. 4.30 Saturday Fight Night. 6.30 Futbol Mundial.

Eurosport

● Astra/Eutelsat

8.30 Extreme Sports. 10.30 Mountain Bike. 11.00 Live Tennis: French Open. 2.00 Live Motorcycling. 4.15 Live Cycling. 5.00 Live Tennis. French Open. 8.00 International U21 Football. 9.30 Live Athletics. 10.30 Motorcycling. 11.30 Tennis: French Open. 12.30 IndyCar. 1.00 Boxing. 2.00 Close.

Sky 1

● Astra

8.00 Delfy and his Friends. 8.30 Incredible Dennis. 9.00 Wild West Cowboys of Moo Mesa. 9.30 Superhuman Samurai Syber-Squad. 10.00 What-a-Mess. 10.30 Orson and Olivia. 11.00 Games World Omnibus. 12.00 Tarzan. 1.00 WWF. 3.00 Kung Fu. 4.00 Star Trek. 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 7.00 Xena: Warrior Princess. 8.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys. 9.00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer. 10.00 Cops. 10.30 Cops. 11.00 South Park. 11.30 Married - With Children. 12.00 Showbiz Weekly. 12.30 The Movie Show. 1.00 VR 5. 2.00 Dream On. 2.30 Dream On. 3.00 Long Play.

National Geographic

● Astra

8.00 Greenhouse Gamble. 9.00 Treasure Hunt. 10.00 Nature's Nightmares. 11.00 Predators. 12.00 Everest: Into the Death Zone. 12.30 Lunge Lizards. 1.00 Colony Z. 1.30 Black Market Birds. 2.00 Close.

UK Gold

● Astra

8.00 The Sullivans. 10.05 You're Only Young Twice. 10.35 In Loving Memory. 11.05 Neighbours. 1.05 EastEnders. 3.55 Film: Doctor in Love. 6.00 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game. 7.10 North Sea Hijack. 9.00 French and Saunders. 9.40 Blackadder's Christmas Carol. 10.40 One Foot in the Grave. 11.30 Shooting Stars. 12.10 Jack Dee Christmas Special. 1.05 The Comic Strip Presents. 2.10 The Comic Strip Presents. 3.50 Shopping at Night.

NBC Superchannel

● Astra/Eutelsat

7.00 The News. 8.00 The McLaughlin Group. 8.30 Europa Journal. 9.00 Tech 2000. 9.30 Computer Chronicles. 10.00 Internet Cafe. 10.30 Tech 2000. 11.00 Super Shop. 12.00 World Cup '98. 12.30 Sports Action. 1.00 NHL Power Week. 2.00 EMC European Golf. 4.00 The Ticket. 4.30 VIP. 5.00 Great Composers. 6.00 Europa a la Carte. 6.30 Five Star Adventure. 7.00 National Geographic Television. 8.00 Mancuso FBI. 9.00 Profiler. 10.00 Jay Leno. 11.00 Conan O'Brien. 12.00 The Ticket. 12.30 VIP. 1.00 Super Sports: Major League Baseball Live. 4.30 Flavours of France. 5.00 Executive Lifestyles. 5.30 The Ticket. 6.00 Travel Xpress. 6.30 Inspiration. 6.30 Inspiration.

Discovery

● Astra/Intelsat

4.00 Saturday Stack: Firepower 2000. 6.00 Firepower 2000. 7.00 Firepower 2000. 8.00 Air to Air. 9.00 Raging Planet. 10.00 Extreme Machines. 11.00 A Century of Warfare. 12.00 Allen Hand. 1.00 Wings Over the World. 2.00 Justice Files. 3.00 Close.

Television and radio — Sunday

BBC 1

5.30am Children's BBC: *Model Millie.* 8.45 Teletubbies. 9.30 Breakfast with Frost. 10.30 Wildlife on One. 11.00 See Hear! 11.30 Pentecost Praise. 12.30 CountryFile. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 On the Record. 2.00 EastEnders. 3.25 FILM: Sonanza: The Return. 4.55 Cartoon. 5.15 A Prince Among Men. 5.45 Junior Masterchef. 6.20 Lifeline. 6.30 News. 6.50 Regional News. 6.55 Songs of Praise. 7.30 Rolf's Amazing World of Animals. 8.00 Last of the Summer Wine. 9.00 Berkeley Square. 9.50 As Time Goes By. 10.20 Close Relations. 11.10 News. 11.25 Everyman. 12.15 FILM: Play Misty for Me. 1.55 The Sky at Night. 2.15 Weather. 2.20 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

7.10am Open University: Giotto: The Arena Chapel. 8.25 Plays in Performance. 9.15 Suenos: World Spanish. 9.30 Children's BBC: Fireman Sam. 9.40 The Prince of Atlantis. 10.05 The Adventures of Shirley Holmes. 10.30 Fully Booked. 1.00 The Simpsons. 1.45 The O Zone. 2.00 Sunday Grandstand. 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? 8.00 Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld. 8.30 The Money Programme. 9.00 A Paper War. 10.00 Heart Bypass. *10.30 Have I Got News For You.* 11.00 FILM: Carry On - Don't Lose Your Head. 12.30 Stella Street. 12.45 FILM: The Wings of Honneamise. 2.40 Weather. 2.45 Close. 3.00 Learning Zone.

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.20 World Weather. 7.30 Bodger and Badger. 7.45 Jackanory Gold. 8.00 Mortimer and Arabel. 8.15 Get Your Own Back. 8.40 Out of Tune. 9.05 Blue Peter. 9.30 Bad Boyes. 9.55 Top of the Pops. 10.25 Style Challenge. 10.50 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 11.30 Ballykissangel. 12.25 Yes, Prime Minister. 12.55 Animal Hospital. 1.25 Kilroy. 2.05 Style Challenge. 2.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 3.00 Ballykissangel. 3.55 Noddy. 4.10 The Really Wild Show. 4.35 Blue Peter. 5.00 Bad Boyes. 5.30 Top of the Pops. 6.00 World News. 6.20 World Weather. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.00 Lovejoy. 8.00 999. 9.00 Van Gogh. 10.00 World News. 10.25 World Weather. 10.30 Crossing the Floor. 11.45 Songs of Praise. 12.20 A Woman Called Smith. 1.05 Going to School in Japan.

BBC World

● Eutelsat

7.00am World News. 7.30 India Business Report. 8.00 World News. 8.30 Film '98. 9.00 World News. 9.30 Hard Talk. 10.00 World News. 10.30 This Week. 11.00 World Headlines. 11.05 When Rover Met BMW. 12.00 World News. 12.30 Future Fantastic. 1.00 World News. 1.30 Hard Talk. 2.00 World Headlines. 2.05 Pole to Pole. 3.00 World News. 3.30 Holiday. 4.00 World News. 4.10 Dateline London. 5.00 World Headlines. 5.05 Horizons. 6.00 World News. 6.30 Future Fantastic. 7.00 World Headlines. 7.05 When Rover Met BMW. 8.00 World News. 8.30 Simpson's World. 9.00 World News. 9.05 Pole to Pole. 10.00 World News. 10.30 Earth Report. 11.00 World News. 11.30 Hard Talk. 12.00 World News. 12.30 Reporters. 1.00 World Headlines. 1.05 USA Direct. 1.30 This Week. 2.00 News. 2.30 Top Gear. 3.00 News. 3.30 Asia Today. 3.40 USA Direct. 4.00 News. 4.30 USA Direct. 5.00 News. 5.30 Asia Today. 5.40 USA Direct. 6.00 News. 6.30 Correspondent.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz; 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am News Briefing. 7.05 Something Understood. 7.35 On Your Farm. 8.00 News. 8.05 Sunday Papers. 8.10 Sunday. 8.55 Radio 4 Appeal. 9.00 News. 9.05 Sunday Worship. 9.45 Letter from America. 10.00 News; Broadcasting House. 11.00 The Archers. 12.15 Desert Island Discs. 1.00 News; Cajun Country. 1.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. 2.00 The World This Weekend. 2.30 Mastermind. 3.00 Gardeners' Question Time. 3.45 Pippa's Pasta. 4.00 The Classic Serial. 5.00 News; Open Book. 5.30 Poetry Please! 6.00 News; Fugitives and Fortresses. 6.40 Feedback. 6.54 Shipping Forecast. 7.00 News. 7.15 Pick of the Week. 8.00 News; The Archers. 8.15 The Beaton Generation. 9.00 (FM) News, Rent Four. 9.00 (LW) Open University. 9.30 (FM) Law in Action. 10.00 (FM) News; The Lost Recorder. 10.30 (FM) Analysis. 11.00 News; The Westminster Hour. 12.00 News; Late Night on 4. 12.30 Something Understood. 1.00 News. 1.15 Experimental Feature. 1.30 The Late Story. 1.48 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service. 6.30 World News. 6.35 Shipping Forecast. 6.40 Inshore Forecast. 6.45 Prayer for the Day. 6.47 Farming Today.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on MW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (1515m)

7.00am Newsday. 7.30 In Praise of God. 8.00 News. 8.15 Letter from America. 8.30 A Jolly Good Show. 9.00 News. 9.15 Health Matters. 9.30 Jazzmatazz. 10.00 News. 10.10 Pause for Thought. 10.15 Short Story. 10.30 The Greenfield Collection. 11.00 News. 11.05 Write On. 11.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Global Business. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Anything Goes. 2.00 News; (648 only) News in German. 2.05 Write On. 2.15 In Praise of God. 2.45 Sports Round-Up. 3.00 Newshour. 4.01 Newstalk. 5.00 News. 5.05 Sports Round-Up. 5.15 Concert Hall. 5.30 (648 only) News in German. 6.00 News. 6.05 Sunday Sportsworld. 7.00 News. 7.01 Isreal Among the Nations. 7.30 Word Up. 8.00 Newsdesk. 8.30 Play of the Week: Voices on the Wind. 9.30 Anything Goes. 10.00 Newshour. 11.00 News. 11.05 Write On. 11.15 Britain Today. 11.30 Music Review. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Health Matters. 12.45 Sports Round-Up. 1.00 News. 1.05 Science View. 1.10 Performance. 1.25 Pop Short. 1.30 In Praise of God. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Westway Access. 2.45 Britain Today. 3.00 Newsdesk. 3.30 Pick of the World. 4.00 Newsday. 4.30 Meridian Feature. 5.00 News. 5.05 Write On. 5.15 Sports Round-Up. 5.30 The World Today. 6.00 *The World Today.*

Sky Movies Screen 1

● Astra

7.00 Another Woman. 8.25 Farewell to the King. 10.25 Jumanji. 12.10 Cutthroat Island. 2.15 Another Woman. 3.40 Ivanhoe. 6.00 Jumanji. 8.00 Cutthroat Island. 10.00 Twelve Monkeys. 12.10 Playback. 1.45 Scene of the Crime. 3.20 A Woman Scorned II. 5.00 Party Camp.

Sky Movies Screen 2

● Astra

7.00 *The Song of Bernadette.* 9.25 The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms. 11.00 Snow White and the Three Stooges. 1.00 The Duellists. 3.00 Abraham - Part Two. 5.00 Here Comes Mr Jordan. 6.30 Moby Dick. 9.00 Devil in a Blue Dress. 11.00 Of Love and Shadows. 12.45 The Movie Show. 1.15 Stealing Beauty. 3.15 Girl 6. 5.05 The Sexual Life of the Belgians.

Sky Sports

● Astra

7.00 Sports Unlimited. 8.00 World Sport Special. 8.30 Cycling. 9.00 Aerobics Oz Style. 9.30 Wild Spirits. 10.00 Saturday Fight Night. 12.00 World Wide Rugby. 2.00 Live European PGA Golf. 5.00 Inside the Senior PGA Tour. 5.30 International Football Special. 7.30 Live Super League. 9.30 Cycling. 10.30 Motorcycling. 1.00 WWF. 4.00 Football. 6.00 Close.

Eurosport

● Astra/Eutelsat

8.30 IndyCar. 9.00 Live Motorcycling. 10.30 Motocross. 11.00 Live Motorcycling. 3.00 Live Tennis. 4.00 Live Cycling. 5.00 Live Tennis. 8.00 Football. 10.00 IndyCar. 11.30 Tennis. 12.30 Sailing. 1.30 Close.

Sky 1

● Astra

7.00 The Hour of Power. 8.00 Delfy and his Friends. 8.30 Ultraforce. 9.00 Wild West Cowboys of Moo Mesa. 9.30 Superhuman Samurai Syber-Squad. 10.00 What-A-Mess. 10.30 Orson and Olivia. 11.00 Adventures of Sinbad. 12.00 Rescue. 12.30 Sea Rescue. 1.00 Miracles and Other Wonders. 2.00 World Wrestling Federation: Superstars. 3.00 Kung Fu. 4.00 Star Trek. 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 7.00 The Simpsons. 8.00 Friends. 9.00 The X Files. 10.00 The X Files. 11.00 *Hot Summer Down Under.* 12.00 South Park. 12.30 Forever Knight. 1.30 Tales from the Crypt. 2.00 Dream On. 2.30 Dream On. 3.00 Long Play.

National Geographic

● Astra

8.00 Grizzly and Man: Uneasy Truce. 9.00 Pigs and Trotters: The Wild Boars. 10.00 Pigs and Trotters: Ivory Pigs. 11.00 Abyssinian She-Wolf. 12.00 Sex on the Reef. 1.00 Costa Rica. 2.00 Close.

UK Gold

● Astra

8.20 The Onedin Line. 9.15 Plaza Patrol. 9.45 Take a Letter, Mister Jones. 10.15 High and Dry. 10.45 Blake's Seven. 11.50 Dr Who Omnibus: Terror of the Vervoids. 1.40 Sports Anorak of the Year. 2.10 The Jokers. 4.00 The Bill. 6.25 Only When I Laugh. 7.00 The House of Eliott. 8.05 Driving School. 8.45 Keeping Up Appearances. 9.25 Open All Hours. 10.05 Taggart. 12.15 The New Statesman. 12.50 Spitting Image. 1.25 Nice Work. 2.20 The Equalizer. 3.05 'Neath Arizona Skies. 4.00 Shopping at Night.

NBC Superchannel

● Astra/Eutelsat

8.00 Hour of Power. 9.00 Interiors by Design. 9.30 Dream Builders. 10.00 Gardening by the Yard. 10.30 Company of Animals. 11.00 Super Shop. 12.00 ITTF Table Tennis. 1.00 Inside the PGA Tour. 1.30 Inside the Senior PGA Tour. 2.00 European Golf. 4.00 Time and Again. 5.00 The McLaughlin Group. 5.30 Meet the Press. 6.30 VIP. 7.00 Classic Talking with David Frost. 8.00 Classic Cousteau: The Cousteau Odyssey. 9.00 ITTF Table Tennis. 10.00 The Best of The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. 11.00 Profiler. 12.00 The Ticket. 12.30 VIP. 1.00 The Best of The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. 2.00 Intemight. 3.00 VIP. 3.30 Europe a la Carte. 4.00 The Ticket. 4.30 Travel Xpress. 5.00 Five Star Adventure. 5.30 The Ticket. 6.00 Europe Today.

Discovery

● Astra/Intelsat

5.00 Seedart. 6.00 Flightline. 6.30 Ultra Science. 7.00 Ultimate Guide. 8.00 The Supernatural. 8.30 Animal X. 9.00 Nazis - The Occult Conspiracy. 11.00 Hitler's Henchman. 12.00 Discover Magazine. 1.00 Lonely Planet. 2.00 Justice Files. 3.00 Close.

صكذا من الاصل

A book too far for Alexander Solzhenitsyn





One man finds himself an island

James Meek on the post-Soviet decline of the one-time scourge of the Kremlin

A NEW book by the Nobel prize-winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the internationally revered symbol of intellectual resistance to Soviet tyranny, is to have a print run in his native Russia of just 5,000 due to lack of demand.

The book, Russia in Collapse, a collection of essays lashing out at every perceived evil afflicting post-Soviet society from Ukrainian nationalism to incompetent land reform, goes on sale at a single Moscow outlet next week.

Retailing at £1 for the paperback edition, £1.40 for the hardback — a third of the price for the best-selling memoirs of Boris Yeltsin's bodyguard Alexander Korzhakov — the tiny print run for a potential readership of more than 300 million Russian-speakers worldwide shows just how interest in the writer has fallen since he broke Stalin's spell of fear 36 years ago.

"Tell me what kind of print runs we have in this country these days," said a defensive Mumira Urazova, secretary of the Alexander Solzhenitsyn Fund. "Usually it's one, two or three thousand. I don't think anyone's printed 100,000 copies of a Russian book for a long time."

In 1962, on the eve of the publication of A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, the work that made Solzhenitsyn's reputation, half Moscow was agog with anticipation and the other half had already read it in hand-copied samizdat versions.

After the novel's appearance in the magazine Novy Mir, two subsequent Soviet editions totalling 850,000 sold out immediately. Solzhenitsyn's biographer Michael Scammell believes that if the Soviet Union's planning system had allowed it 8.5 million people would have bought it.

The writer's denunciation of the forced labour system, The Gulag Archipelago, sold in similar quantities in the Soviet Union and abroad. Since his forced exile to the west in 1974, Solzhenitsyn has continued to study and write feverishly, but the reading public's enthusiasm for his works has vanished as utterly as the enemy he once fought.

Russia in Collapse is only Solzhenitsyn's second book since he returned to Russia in 1994. The other work, The Russian Question at the End of the 20th Century, was not widely read. His only ventures in fiction, published in magazines, have been criticised as being naive and simplistic about the new Russia.

The 79-year-old writer is not a recluse — he travels around provincial Russia, speaking to small audiences, occasionally writes letters to the newspapers, and sponsors a literary prize — but he rarely gives interviews and has retreated from the national stage as the audience has turned its back on him.

He was deeply hurt when the country's biggest TV channel, ORT, pulled the plug on his short-lived prime time broadcast, in which he materialised at suppertime in his tweedy safari suit to harangue viewers on the ills of communism, capitalism and materialism. TV executives said the viewers had found him boring.

The director of the firm publishing the book, Victor Moskvin, said 5,000 was only the start. "Times have changed in the country. Not so many people can afford to buy books. But we will print a new edition quickly. I'm talking about a matter of weeks."

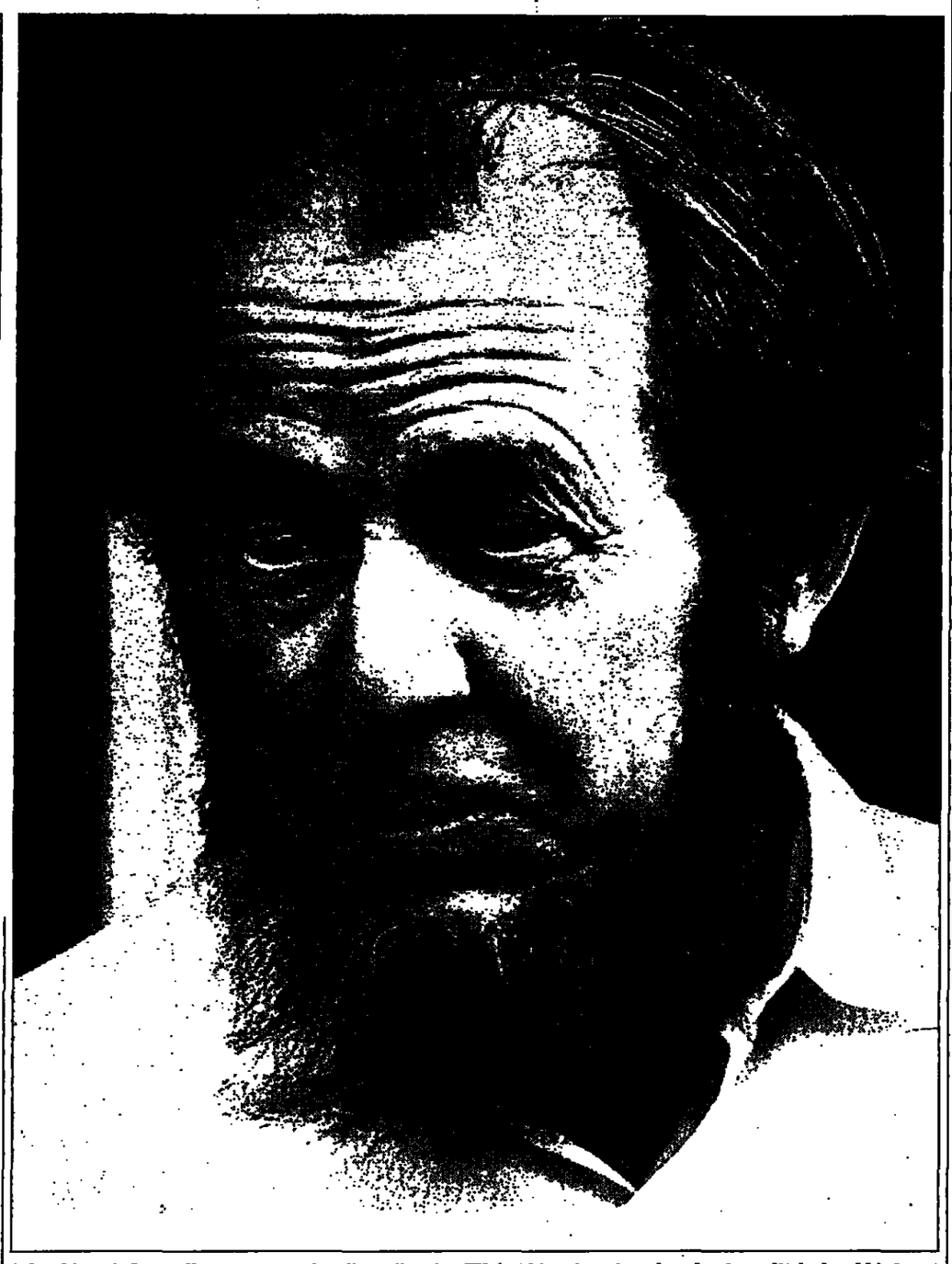
To promote Russia in Collapse, extracts have been published in four newspapers, including the weekly Argumenti I Fakti, the most popular in the former Soviet Union.

The extracts reveal a man consumed by rage, bitterness and sorrow at the state his country has been reduced to since the collapse of the Soviet Union, with a focus on complaint and lament rather than renewal, reminiscent of the speeches of communist leader Gennady Zyuganov.

The text is bizarrely at odds with the cheery, energetic, enthusiastic figure who still occasionally flashes across Russian television screens.

Mr Moskvin said that since extracts had appeared his firm had been bombarded with calls from prospective buyers as far away as Siberia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. "He's a great 20th century writer. The new book is a deep view of the state of Russia today."

Ms Urazova said: "Any publication of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's has always received a response from the people, from ordinary simple folk in the first instance. And that's what's happening now."



Solzenhitsyn's face still appears occasionally on Russian TV, but his prime time show has been ditched and his latest book, Russia in Collapse, has a print run of just 5,000, unlike previous successes (above left)

Top soccer clubs reject pay-to-view proposals

Stuart Millar

THE relentless march of the Sky football revolution suffered a surprise setback yesterday when FA Premier League clubs rejected pay-per-view proposals that would have forced fans to pay up to £10 to watch selected games on television.

The decision by the top 20 top-flight English clubs confounded expectations that pay-per-view would be in place for the start of next season — fulfilling Sky's ambition to use the Premiership as part of the launch of its digital television service.

But both supporters' groups and football analysts predicted last night that the setback was little more than symbolic. The clubs will be faced with the same decision next year and discussions between the two sides will continue in the meantime, so some form of pay-per-view for Premiership matches is seen as inevitable.

The chairmen, gathered in Leicester for their annual summer meeting, took just two hours to decide unanimously to reject Sky's proposals after a presentation by Peter Leaver, the Premier League's chief executive.

Despite confident predictions from Martin Edwards, chairman of Manchester United, before the meeting that the majority of clubs supported the offer, the issue did not need to be put to a vote.

Mr Leaver said: "The Premier League is determined to ensure that there is an opportunity to consider all of the issues in detail and to act in the best interests of the game and its supporters. We want to develop broadcasting arrangements which strike the right balance and secure the right future for English football."

Maurice Watkins, a Manchester United director who attended the meeting, said: "We heard the recommendations today and decided not to proceed on the basis of what was put to us. There were a number of things we were unhappy with."

Some suspect that the clubs are holding out until they are in a position to launch a digital channel of their own. Mr Leaver is believed to favour this option.

But Vic Wakeling, Sky's head of sport, said: "The proposals were never going to be agreed today — there are still too many details to be discussed and Sky shares the Premier League's wish to get it right for all football fans."

Under the proposals, put before the clubs in February, pay-per-view would have been introduced on an experimental basis in September, putting another 144 games on television, in addition to the 60 that would remain on Sky's subscription sports channels.

Revenues, conservatively estimated at £20 million in the first year, would have been divided evenly between the clubs and Sky, which would be responsible for operational costs.

"If Sky doesn't get these revenues in the long term then it will still have a business but it will not be as good a business," said Matthew Horsman, a media analyst.

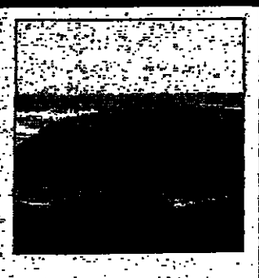
Fans feared the Sky proposals would lead to the demise of traditional Saturday afternoon football — initially five fixtures a week would have moved to Sundays — as well as having a serious impact on the lower divisions.

The potential cost provoked most opposition. Sky currently charges more than £20 for subscription to its sports channels. With pay-per-view, they would have been required to pay £8-£10 per match on top of the £200 cost of a digital decoder box.

David Mellor, chairman of the Football Task Force, said: "The proposals seemed like a destruction of all the traditions of football in England."

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One life in the days of Soviet tyranny and Western exile

Jonathan Steele

LIKE a mighty Siberian river, Alexander Solzhenitsyn's progress as a writer has been slow-moving but unstoppable: close to the heart of Russia, uncontaminated by Westward-leanings, and reaching its climax in a chilling wilderness remote from modern aspirations.

His convictions have veered, but what he held dear he defended with passion. "I would gladly give my life for Lenin," he wrote from the front during the second world war.

As an author Solzhenitsyn was a late developer, publishing his first novel, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, in 1962 at the age of 44. It won notoriety as the first denunciation of Stalin's camps to be cleared in the Soviet Union. It was based on what he saw after his arrest in 1945 for disparaging Stalin in letters to friends.

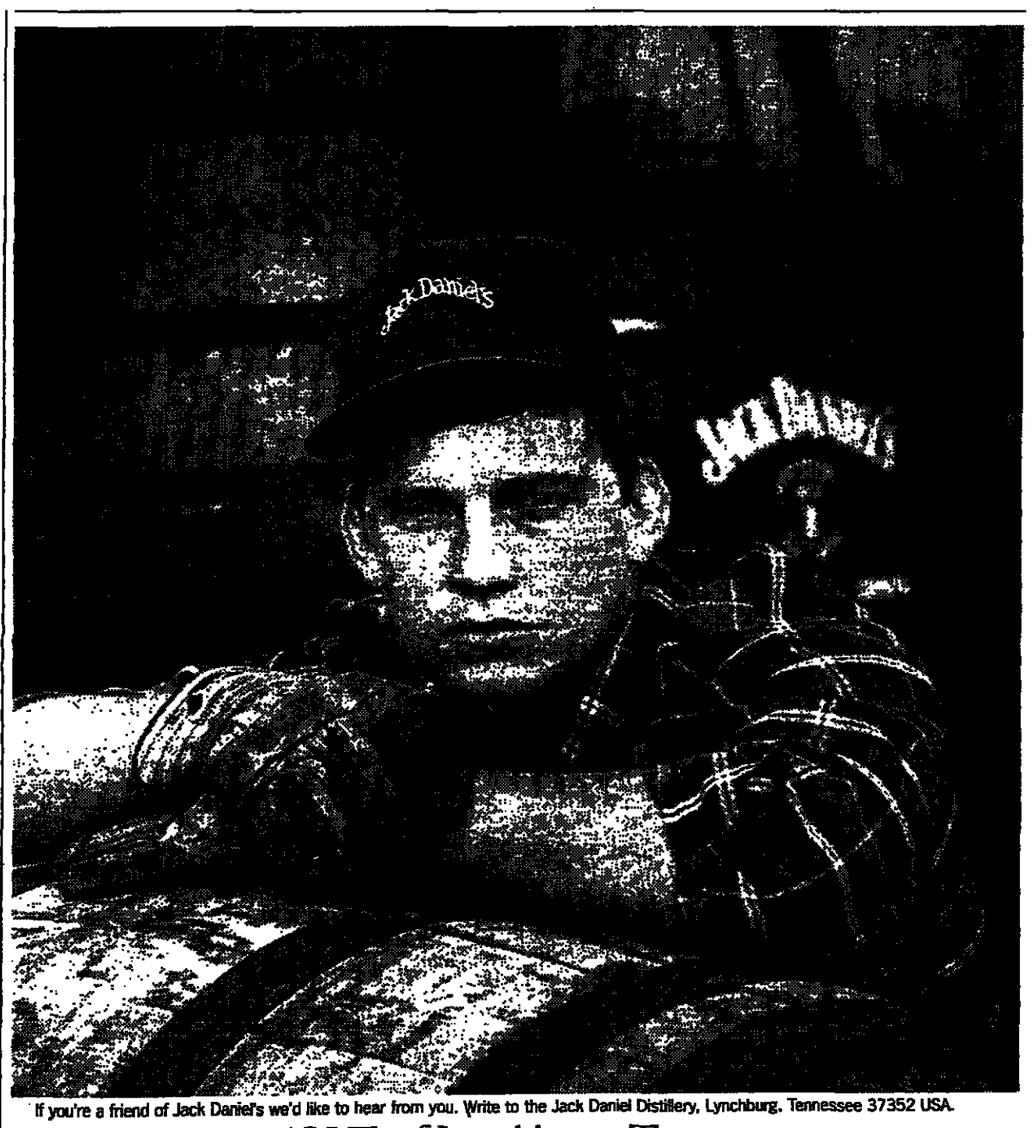
His next prison work, First Circle (1968), about the fate of incarcerated intellectuals, was banned and he was never published again in the Soviet Union. By then he had turned to Orthodox Christianity.

Expelled to the West, his revenge was the Gulag Archipelago, an exposure of the Soviet prison system.

He returned in 1994, determined to denounce Russia's drift to Western materialism. Now comes his latest, perhaps final book, a bitter jeremiad from the archimandrite of despair.

education

Every Tuesday in the
The Guardian International



If you're a friend of Jack Daniel's we'd like to hear from you. Write to the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee 37352 USA.

MR. TERRY HOLT, of Lynchburg, Tennessee, starts every morning with a barrel of Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey.

Most days, Terry is up before the sun. Then, in the cool of the Tennessee dawn, he'll roll dozens of newly-filled barrels into warehouses set deep in the hills. (Our whiskey will sleep here until it's sippin' smooth.) What accounts for the rareness you find in Jack Daniel's? Partly, this old-time aging process. And partly, early risers like Terry Holt.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Virgin stamps mark on rail staff





Out: tattoos and body piercing





In: sensible shoes, black only — and tidy hair PHOTOGRAPHS: DOD MILLER, JEFF MORGAN, MARTIN GODWIN

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

RICHARD Branson has decided that tattoos are inappropriate for staff on his Virgin trains.

Trains can run late or be cancelled at a moment's notice, but for Mr Branson's 3,500 staff on the West Coast main line from London to Glasgow, appearance is all important. He has ordered them to cover up their tattoos while working.

The instruction, in a detailed brochure to coincide with introduction of new uniforms, suggests staff should remove any visible body piercing before going on duty. Women's earrings are allowed.

Virgin Trains has not endeared itself to the public with one of the worst records on the railway, but Mr Branson is intent that, whatever his company's performance, his staff must look smart. For summer, he has introduced red and black uniforms with blouse and blazers. For winter, there will be zip-up jackets, caps and woolly hats.

Staff have been given strict instructions: it is all right to turn up for work in jumpers and cardigans, but never under a jacket.

Mr Branson does not like badges apart from Virgin Rail's name badge. For women he proposes that make-up should stick to neutral colours and subtle shades. Only black shoes must be worn. Nails must be trimmed and hands washed frequently.

Virgin does not expect problems with the £2 million facelift. A spokesman said that staff had helped to design the uniform and were "generally very happy" with the styles. "They will understand the instructions they have been given," he added.

Mr Branson was in Rome yesterday to take a ride on the Italian tilting train, which he hopes to introduce on the West Coast line within four years. He admitted the Virgin image had been dented by poor punctuality, but said passengers would remember Virgin "for what we achieve on this route when the improvements come in".

Child becomes youngest person to be put on sex offenders' register

Boy, 12, found guilty of raping five-year-old girl

Martin Walmwright

A 12-YEAR-old boy became the youngest person to go on Britain's new register of sex offenders yesterday after a jury found him guilty of raping a five-year-old girl.

The boy, who will be sentenced later, sobbed in the dock at Leeds crown court as he was convicted unanimously. He is one of the youngest defendants to be convicted of rape, joining a 12-year-old member of a London gang who received five years youth custody last year for his part in an attack on an Austrian woman.

Judge Arthur Myerson QC said he found the register order "very difficult" but the 1997 Sexual Offenders law appeared to be absolute and gave him no option.

The boy, who was bailed for reports before sentencing, is required to give his name and address to police in Leeds within the next few days to add to the register.

He will be sentenced along with the girl's uncle, now 13, who will also go on the register after admitting indecent assault during a Sunday afternoon walk by the three children in a Leeds cemetery. The judge said that because the boy was so young and the circumstances of the case so unusual, he wanted further advice before passing sentence.

The hearing had seen careful efforts to disentangle what happened in the cemetery and attempt to place them in the context of children's behaviour.

There have been several rape charges against young boys in recent years, including two 10-year-olds who were acquitted in Manchester last year. The issue has raised concern about the most appropriate ways of dealing with attacks involving very young perpetrators and victims.

The two days of evidence, described as "difficult and upsetting" by Judge Myerson, included claims that the 12-year-old twice climbed on top of the girl during the outing last September, and threatened to burn the uncle's clothes on a campfire the children had made if he did not do the same.

Giving evidence by video link, the girl described how the 12-year-old had laughed as he raped her. She had been hurt and was scared that she was going to be killed. "I was saying, 'Get off me, get off me', and I was kicking my legs at him. But he wouldn't get off," she told the court.

The boy denied rape but was convicted by the jury of six women and six men.

They had heard that the girl's grandmother had taken her to hospital and called the police after the girl returned home with the boys and accused them of "having rudies with me". She said the 12-year-old had told her he was going to show "what daddies do to mummies".

The court had heard suggestions that the girl had fantasised and that a children's game had got out of hand. But bloodstains were found on her underwear and a doctor confirmed at the hospital that she had suffered penetration.

Judge Myerson thanked the jury and added: "It has been a very difficult and somewhat emotional case. It's a verdict I can well understand."

None of the children can be named for legal reasons.

Ex-officers apologise to emperor over PoWs' protest

John Ezard on Akihito's meeting with veterans committed to reconciliation

EMPEROR Akihito of Japan — under pressure all week to apologise for atrocities against British camp victims — had the unexpected consolation of receiving an apology himself yesterday.

It came from five British ex-officers angry about the "intolerable behaviour" of ex-prisoners of war and internees. Demonstrators dogged the emperor with protests right up to the end of his four-day state visit to Britain.

The ex-officers said this "relentlessly waged" campaign had "tainted and jeopardised Anglo-Japanese relations".

Later it emerged that the apology — like the protests — was partly motivated by personal trauma left by the horrors of Britain's war with Japan more than 50 years ago.

It was delivered to Akihito by the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group when he attended a reception for Japanese organisations in London on the final day of his visit.

The group has about 100 members dedicated to reconciliation with Japan. Members, who include two peers, an ex-major general and 12 former PoWs, were invited to several official functions during the visit. It has been accused of "sycophancy" by some fellow-veterans, a charge it denies.

Its chairman, John Nunneley, aged 76, former managing director of British Transport Advertising, has explained that he spent his life trying to atone for an atrocity in the Burmese jungle. He was forced by circumstance to order the murder of a wounded Japanese prisoner of war.

Mr Nunneley said: "My patrol behind enemy positions found a wounded Japanese soldier on a makeshift bed, in a grass hut. He gave a slight smile, perhaps to conceal his fear. We gave him water and a biscuit while I thought what to do with him.

"We had to continue the patrol, so we could not carry him with us as a prisoner. I knew that the wounded man must not be allowed to live. And I knew that because a single revolver shot would bring the enemy upon us, he had to die silently.

"There is no tiny detail of that jungle scene which is not etched deeply on my mind's eye. In those few moments when we looked at one another, he taught me the value of human life. As the years passed, I knew I must make amends for that young soldier I condemned to death."

Mr Nunneley first confessed his action at a Westminster church service during the VJ Day commemorations in 1995. Yesterday he added: "The prisoner was bayoneted on my orders by one of my askari [Asian soldiers]. I can never forget that his arms were in a position of surrender. I have never since then been able to lie in that position."

Yesterday he told the emperor: "On behalf of my organisation and many thousands of Far East veterans who represent the silent majority, I apologise for the discourtesies you have received."

Afterwards he said Akihito was "appreciative". But the emperor had added that he understood the feelings of prisoners of war.

On the pavement outside the reception, news of the apology aroused irritation among elderly camp victims exhausted after protesting at a total of 13 official functions.

"I don't think it was called for," said Keith Martin, chairman of the Association of British Civilian Internees Far East Region.

For once, the demonstrators relaxed their watch by dispersing before the emperor left the reception. They said a 90-year-old woman among them was in distress from exhaustion and needed help.

Later, the emperor's visit to the London British Red Cross headquarters made one official of the internees association, Muriel Parham, aged 60, recall one of her own traumas. She said her mother weighed only four stone when released from Japanese internment. Yet their American liberators found a building in the camp stacked to the ceiling with Red Cross parcels.

Heads get full control of budgets

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE Government yesterday completed the Tories' revolution in education when it announced plans to delegate 100 per cent of the schools budget to headteachers and governing bodies, leaving local education authorities with a tightly controlled administrative role.

Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, told the National Association of Head Teachers conference in Eastbourne that every state school would get the financial freedoms previously reserved for the grant-maintained sector, established in 1988 as a haven for schools wanting to escape education authority control.

Heads will take over wide-ranging responsibilities, including school meals, repairs and administration of the staff payroll.

Schools will get their own bank accounts and keep the interest earned on any deposit of public funds.

Mr Byers said they would be able to buy back services from the education authority if it seemed good value for money.

Instead of opting out of local authority control, they would have discretion to opt back in for particular functions. The new deal was "not dissimilar" to the grant-maintained arrangements "in that there will be opportunities for schools to have financial responsibility for a whole range of areas," he said.

It would establish a level playing field between the different types of state school, eliminating the advantages that GM schools have hitherto enjoyed.

The Government was making no estimate of the resources being switched from education authorities to school accounts, but the Local Government Association thought the sum would be about £600 million. David Willcox, its vice-chairman of education, said efficient authorities would continue to carry out a lot of the work because they would give the best value for money, but weak councils might suffer.

Although the association is concerned that local authorities are becoming "the agents of government in the localities" instead of free-standing democratic bodies, it is unlikely to fight the principle of the reform during consultations over the next two months.

The new system is due to come into force next April when byzantine accounting rules allowing authorities to salt away Exchequer funds for their own purposes will be eliminated.

They will be allowed to spend money on four specific functions to support their schools, including central administration, school transport, helping school improvement and spending on special educational needs, including the education psychology service and pupil referral units.

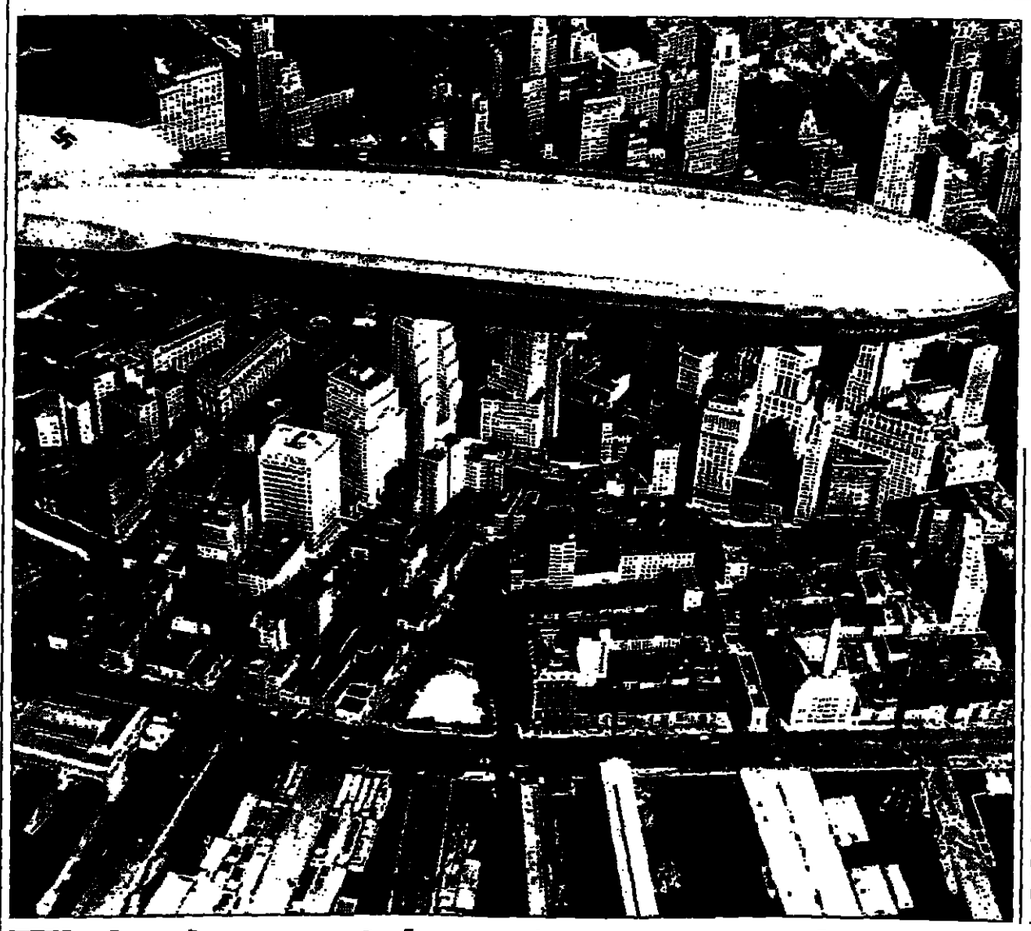
All other money in the schools budget will have to be delegated to heads and governors. The system will be policed by district auditors. "There will be no question of education authorities being able to exploit the new system to withhold money from schools," Mr Byers said.

Funding of the school music service will be nationalised to protect it from further cuts.

The Government will set a minimum level of education authority provision to guarantee existing services for at least three years as a prelude to expansion.

The proposals for delegating more funding to school level are similar to a scheme advanced by the Conservatives at the last election.

Airships are back, reports James Meikle





New era: A drawing of Airship Technologies' 279ft craft (above) which will be capable of carrying 56 passengers and crew at 80 knots. Old era: The Hindenburg (left) over New York before its crash in 1937 ended the first airship age

This is not just a massive pie in the sky

AIRSHIPS of the future will carry tourists watching whales and wild game, or be green sky-juggernauts, carrying huge loads cheaply and efficiently with no need of runways, or the next century's equivalent of barrage balloons, guarding against attack by surface-skimming cruise missiles, or vehicles for safe clearance of landmines.

Pie in the sky? Or are the back-to-the-future dreams of the airship enthusiasts finally about to take off? A prototype Zeppelin is flying again. Cargo-Lifter, another German company, promises an 800-foot airship capable of carrying 160 tons of freight, and next week Ministry of Defence officials visit Britain's leading airship manufacturer.

New dawns for airships have been promised before, but early next year an Airship Technologies craft, 279ft long with a gondola capable of carrying 52 passengers and four crew at 80 knots, should leave a hangar at Cardington, near Bedford.

Sister ships will be on offer at about £6 million. The model, already being promoted for a variety of civil and military uses, should be able to cross the Atlantic. It will be small compared with the 803ft Hindenburg, which crashed in flames in New Jersey in 1937, but by 2002 a 450-seater, 475ft ship could be ready. Change the accommodation for luxury long-distance flights for 100 people, and it may be ploughing its state-roomed way to Sydney with just one stop, at New Delhi.

In South Africa, an airship is being designed to carry 65 passengers on transatlantic flights at 100 mph.

Mike Rentell, secretary of the Airship Association, which holds a conference in Bedford next month, insists: "There is a real role for them in modern aviation, although the technology has only just really arrived that makes them truly viable."

Modern materials for the balloon envelopes, the reduced need for heavy-load bearing structures and more efficient engines have all helped. Scores of trained ground staff were once needed but a mobile mast, needing a ground crew of three, has had trials in Britain and America, and the new Airship Technologies model, the AT-04, will have thrusters to allow ground-handling without a ground crew. Explosive hydrogen, which once filled the giant balloons, has been replaced by helium. "There is no problem with fire. Modern airships are huge fire extinguishers with all that helium," says Mr Rentell.

It was not accidents that killed the giant airships, he maintains, but the second world war, which forced development of four-engine aircraft. "But airships were going from Frankfurt to Brazil with 20 passengers non-stop and you can only just do that in an aircraft now."

Airship Technologies' chairman, Sir John Walker, a former RAF air marshal, will be welcoming his old employers from the Ministry of Defence for a chat next week. In the early 1980s, he headed a study into airships' use to give warning of enemy cruise missiles.

On the civil side, he says, there have been inquiries from South America and East Africa about using airships for scheduled services.

1852 First successful airship built by Henri Giffard in France.
1900 Ferdinand, Graf von Zeppelin, begins building airships.
First World War Zeppelin bombing missions over England and France. Allied airships used against submarines.
1919 British dirigible R34 makes round-trip transatlantic crossing.
1924 American and British experts killed in R38accident over the Humber.
1926 Italian airship carrying Arctic explorer Roald Amundsen crosses North Pole.
1929 775ft-long Graf Zeppelin flies round world. In its nine-year life it flew more than a million miles carrying 16,000 passengers during 17,178 hours.
1930 Forty-eight people, including Lord Thompson, the Air Minister, die as the R101 crashes near Beauvais, France, en route to India.
1937 Hindenburg becomes one of the first mass-media disasters as it crashes in flames in New Jersey on its 38th Atlantic crossing, killing 35 of 97 passengers and crew and a member of the ground staff.
Second World War American airships have great success on convoy protection.
1972 First airship in 20 years cruises over Britain. Damaged a month later after breaking loose.
1986 (Short-lived) air tours over London.
2000 Luxury tourist cruises back over capital? German-built CargoLifters carrying 160 tons of freight enter service? Zeppelins over the Alps? 150-metre Holland Millenium Navigator planned for the Netherlands.

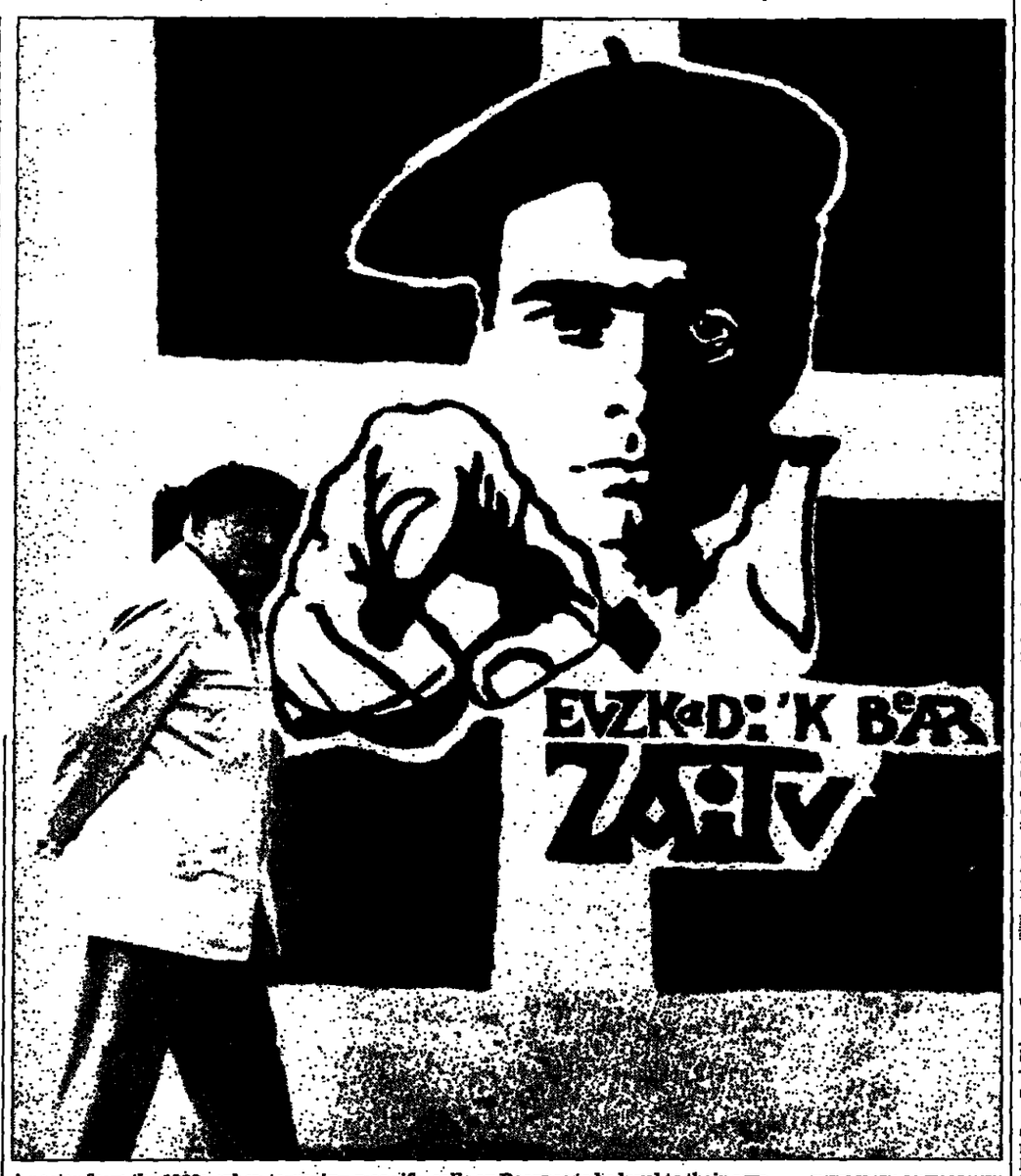
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Ministers in dock on death squads as Spain mounts a trial few countries would chance



Jose Barrionuevo, the former interior minister, (left) and his deputy, Rafael Vera PHOTOGRAPH: OSCAR MORENO



A poster from the 1980s, when terrorism was rife, calls on Basques to be loyal to their own PHOTOGRAPH: SANTIAGO LYON

Madrid's 'Anti-terrorist Liberation Groups' killed 27 people. Barely half were Basque guerrillas. John Hooper watches a milestone case based on the premise that the state must act legally, even when it is pursuing those who seek to destroy it

THE time: December, 1983. The place: an isolated farmhouse amid the snows of the Picos de Europa, the mountains that stretch west from the Basque country along Spain's Atlantic coast.

A man is sitting on a stone bench. Despite the bitter cold, he is wearing nothing but pyjamas. A blanket has been put around his shoulders and a hood placed over his head, then rolled back up so that he can make himself heard to the others in the room. They are all armed. Every so often, the man on the bench asks pitifully if they are going to kill him.

In a office in Bilbao, the Basque country's biggest city, three men are talking late into the night. They are the men who organised the kidnapping and they are grappling with the appalling fact that their subordinates have got the wrong person. Every so often, a telephone rings, and men yet further up the chain of command come on to ask questions, demand explanations, give orders.

Scenes described in vivid detail this week in a Madrid courtroom. Scenes all too sadly typical of the deadly struggle in the Basque country where, for the last 30 years, the separatist guerrillas of ETA have been waging a terrorist war on the Spanish state.

Except that, in this instance, the armed men in the isolated farmhouse were not ETA guerrillas, but police inspectors. The men seated in the office in Bilbao were a police superintendent, the police commissioner and the provincial civil governor. The men on the telephone were a junior minister at the interior ministry and the interior minister himself, José Barrionuevo, the third most senior member of Felipe González's Socialist government — a government elected the year before to cleanse Spain of its authoritarian legacies.

This week, all nine men went on trial, together with two other police officers and the former leader of the Socialist party in the Basque country, in proceedings that represent a milestone in Spain's renascent democracy. Their prosecution is the latest stage in the unravelling of the tangled story of the Spanish state's Anti-terrorist Liberation Groups, or GAL — "death squads" that appeared in 1983 after the Socialists came to power. Their mission was to destabilise ETA in its "safe havens" across the border in France.

Yet of the 27 people the squads killed, barely half were ETA guerrillas. Some were not even ETA sympathisers. Some were not even Basques.

The man who ended up being held for 10 days in that lonely mountain farmhouse was not a terrorist desperado, but a French citizen by the name of Segundo Marey, an employee of a co-operative and a keen amateur gardener. The prosecution alleges he has been marked for life by his experience and has suffered ever since from a neurotic death wish.

The trial that opened Monday of those who organised his abduction and supervised his detention is an extraordinary spectacle. The two politicians who for years were chiefly responsible for the maintenance of law and order in Spain stand charged with running an armed gang and holding a member of the public against his will. If convicted, Mr Barrionuevo and his deputy, Rafael Vera, face up to 23 years in prison.

One of their co-defendants, a former police inspector, enters and leaves the court each day in a motorcycle helmet that completely obscures his features. His former colleagues have several times been involved in bitter, indignant exchanges with counsel, seemingly unable to accept that their conduct can be open to question.

Events surrounding the trial are no less bizarre. Much of the evidence before the court this week first surfaced in the Madrid newspaper El Mundo. Last October, copies began to circulate of a secretly recorded video showing the paper's editor, Pedro Ramírez, indulging in sex play with an Equatorial Guinean prostitute.

She has since told an investigating magistrate she was paid £200,000 to have the encounter filmed. She has said the money was handed over by a former Socialist civil governor in the Basque country in the presence of an aide of Mr González.

But the hearing is much more than a curiosity. A commentator in the weekly news magazine Tiempo said that, with the exception of cases arising from the 1981 coup attempt, this was the "most important trial since the start of Spain's democratic transformation".

The issue is the extent to which Spaniards wish their democracy to be one governed wholly by the rule of law. The question has split society from top to bottom.

Some argue that in a country where people are still being killed by separatist terrorism, government must sometimes shut its eye to the violation of legal niceties. Others maintain that, even if this is no longer a sustainable argument, it was a more valid one in the early 1980s when ETA's violence was at its height and the young, incoming Socialist cabinet was under immense pressure from the security establishment.

For supporters of the prosecution, on the other hand, any backsliding from the principle of legitimacy risks pushing the country spinning back towards authoritarianism.

These apparently clear-cut divisions are blurred by claims that the trial's promoters were motivated less by a concern for legal rectitude than a desire for political vengeance or advantage.

The judge who nursed the case through its early stages was a disillusioned former member of Mr González's administration. One of the police officers first implicated, and convicted, of a role in the GAL testified this week that, before the conservative People's Party took power in 1996, one of its most senior officials, Francisco Alvarez-Cascos, now the deputy prime minister, promised him an eventual pardon for testimony incriminating the Socialists.

He said the meeting took place in Mr Ramírez's office at El Mundo. Both Mr Ramírez and Mr Alvarez-Cascos have denied his allegations.

Above and beyond the intricate, often sordid details of the case, though, is the fact of the trial itself — based firmly on the premise that the state must keep within the confines of the law, even in its pursuit of those who seek to destroy it. Outsiders tempted to talk condescendingly of Spain's "immature" democracy might reflect that nothing like this ever arose from the sinking of the Belgrano or the killings on the Rock.

French vote on genocide riles Turks

Jon Henley in Paris

A DIPLOMATIC row flared between France and Turkey yesterday after the French national assembly voted to recognise as genocide the killings more than 80 years ago of as many as 1.5 million Armenians by Turks.

The motion, tabled by a cross-party group led by Patrick Devedjian, a Gaullist MP who is a descendant of one of the massacre survivors, states simply: "France publicly recognises the Armenian genocide of 1915."

It was passed unanimously by about 30 deputies present in the 577-seat legislature. If the bill is passed by the senate, France — which has one of the largest Armenian communities in Europe — will join Russia and Canada in using the term "genocide" to describe the deaths of between 1.1 and 1.5 million Armenians in Ottoman Turkey between 1915 and 1923.

Turkey denies the deaths constitute genocide, insisting that only about 300,000 Turks and Armenians died as a result of civil war on land which is now eastern Turkey and Syria.

But Armenian groups and historians say the community was driven *en masse* from eastern Turkey for fear it would ally itself with Russian forces then advancing in the Caucasus, and that the exodus was marked by systematic atrocities, mass killings and summary executions.

The Turkish prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, wrote to his French counterpart, Lionel Jospin, to say the motion would antagonise Turks and harm political and trade relations.

"The Turkish people are extremely sensitive about the use of the word 'genocide' to describe the sad events which occurred during the Great War," he said. "They feel unjustly accused of a crime they did not commit during a time marked by great suffering on both sides."

Ankara said the French vote was a serious mistake. "I strongly condemn this decision which encourages racism and incites racist terror against Turkey," the foreign minister, Ismail Cem, said. "It is clear the people who support this decision prefer their racist emotions to France's national interests."

The Turkish president, Suleyman Demirel, said the bill had "no meaning other than mispresenting the historical facts", and invited the French senate to "correct this wrong decision".

The French foreign minister, Hubert Védrine, said he had explained to Ankara that the bill was "a purely parliamentary initiative".

But members of France's community of about 300,000 Armenians say the bill has an important symbolic value.

"Could Germany construct Europe with us if it was still asking itself if the gas chambers existed?" asked René Rouquet, a Socialist deputy from a constituency with a large Armenian population.

"It is in the interests of the Turkish people and government to recognise these acts, which were committed by a minority before the birth of their republic."

Ku Klux Klan trio charged with 1966 killing of activist

Martin Kettle in Washington

THIRTY-TWO years after the firebombing murder of Mississippi black civil rights activist Vernon Dahmer, three members of the Ku Klux Klan have been charged with the 1966 killing.

One of the men charged in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, late on Thursday is Sam Bowers, the founder and former Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, an organisation linked by investigators to 10 murders during the 1960s. Mr Bowers, aged 73, is charged with Deavours Nix, aged 72, and Charles Noble, aged 55. All three face charges of arson, while Mr Bowers and Mr Noble are charged with murder. The trial is set for August 17.

Mr Bowers has faced four separate trials over the years in connection with the Dahmer case, but in every case the all-white juries have been deadlocked.

"This time is going to be different," Mississippi's attorney-general, Mike Moore, said yesterday.

society

Every Wednesday in the
The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

News in brief

Jilted woman cites Viagra

A Long Island woman is suing her common-law husband for running off with another woman after taking the impotence drug Viagra, Mark Tran in New York writes.

Roberta Burke, aged 63, is suing Frank Bernardo, aged 70, for $2 million plus emotional damages. She claims he left her days after Viagra restored his sexual vigour.

Copycat protest

Zimbabwe riot police yesterday fired teargas and beat students with batons to break up a protest against President Robert Mugabe's rule, witnesses said. Students claim they can force Mr Mugabe out in the same way as Indonesia's Mr Suharto. — *Reuters.*

Goldwater dies

Barry Goldwater, the right-wing former Republican senator from Arizona who founded America's modern conservative movement, has died at the age of 89. — *AP.*

Obituary, page 21

Holocaust records

A unique collection of records relating to Holocaust victims will be opened to the public for the first time under an agreement reached by the International Tracing Service, Richard Norton-Taylor writes. The 47 million documents include records of the Buchenwald and Dachau camps.

Colombian polls

Independent candidate Noemi Sanin has won unexpectedly strong support on the eve of Colombia's presidential elections this weekend and looks set to win the vote in Bogotá, polls showed yesterday. — *Reuters.*

Diplomatic ties

Kenya said it will restore diplomatic relations with Libya. The countries have resolved differences stemming from the deportation of five Libyan diplomats in 1987, the foreign ministry said this week. — *AP.*



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Washington goes back to square one

DIPLOMACY/Martin Kettle examines the consequences of a comprehensive failure in American foreign policy

THE failure of United States policy could hardly have been more dramatic or more personal. In a 30-minute telephone call from the White House in the small hours of Thursday morning, President Bill Clinton pleaded with Pakistan's prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, to stay the imminent explosion of five nuclear devices.

White House sources said the conversation was "anguished and impassioned". The New York Times said Mr Clinton had "all but begged" Mr Sharif to hold off.

Yesterday Washington began the huge task of assessing the full scale of its comprehensive policy failure in the Indian subcontinent. The reverses range from the technical — the CIA's failure to spot the preparations for India's five nuclear tests earlier this month — through the political — Mr Clinton's inability to shift the Pakistani leadership from matching the Indian tests — to the strategic — the realisation that the world's sole superpower cannot orchestrate a post-cold-war Pax Americana as easily as many imagine.

'It says that the US, despite its wealth and power, cannot control every event, every place in the world'

No one put the failure more succinctly than Mr Clinton's press spokesman, Mike McCurry. "What does it say about the president's clout in international affairs that both India and now Pakistan have summarily rejected his advice?" he was asked.

He replied: "It says that the United States of America, despite all of its wealth and its might, cannot control every event, every place in the world, particularly in a place where for five decades now governments have fought wars and peoples have lived with incredible tension."

This is an important admission by an important spokesman. Ever since the cold war ended, Americans have been led to believe that they alone control a world essentially submissive to US wealth and power.

Yet on one important occasion after another this expectation has been disappointed: in Bosnia, the Middle East, and the Gulf. Now comes the most serious failure of all, the inability to prevent two new nuclear powers emerging within a matter of weeks.

The White House was scrambling yesterday to interpret what has gone wrong and put in place a policy which will both work and represent US interests in curbing the growing world arms race.

All of a sudden, Washington is confronting problems on which it has been caught napping: the sheer proximity of two new nuclear powers as little as five minutes missile flying time apart, the absence of safety measures like the cold war nuclear "hotline" beween Washington and Moscow, the domestic pressures driving India, Pakistan and other big developing states into the arms race, and the failure of American policy-makers to consider preventive afforts in the region until far too late.

Mr Clinton's first response to Pakistan's nuclear tests was to impose immediate sanctions on the regime in Islamabad. According to official briefings, his actual words were: "If you do this, Nawaz, I have to do this, and it will hurt you a lot more than it'll hurt India".

His officials have tried to dramatise the immediate effectiveness of sanctions, emphasising that international aide represents almost double the proportion of Pakistan's GNP compared with India's.

Yet there is an element of bravado to these claims. US aid to Pakistan, so great during the cold war, when Pakistan was almost as much a US client as India was the Soviet Union's, has slumped to around $60 million a year.

Moreover, Washington's assumptions that its sanctions will prevent the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank giving aid may be an illusion.

World Bank officials said yesterday that Pakistan had already had all the $808 million aid promised in its current fiscal year. The US cannot therefore try to block the next tranche of World Bank credits to Pakistan until autumn at the earliest.

And with most board members of both institutions — and most of the US's traditional allies, including Britain — generally opposed to sanctions, the aid flow may not be interrupted at all.

Meanwhile Washington will try to rebuild its credibility by pressing India and Pakistan to curb the arms race.

Five measures are under discussion: Renouncing further tests, reducing tension by dialogue, signing the Test Ban Treaty, joining talks on a new international fissile material treaty, and promising not to put nuclear weapons on existing delivery systems.



At Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, a Japanese civic group protests at Pakistan's nuclear tests

Britons worry about war risk for relatives

REACTION/The developments have been watched closely by Asians here

Vivek Chaudhary and Martin Wainwright

AS POLITICIANS postured menacingly on the subcontinent, the thoughts of many Britons of Pakistani and Indian origin were with their relatives as concerns grew about a possible nuclear war.

There was little flag-waving and cheering when India tested its first nuclear device and the response has been similar in Pakistani communities in the past two days. Few people from either community believe that events on the subcontinent will lead to communal tension in Britain.

In Southall, west London, a community made up predominantly of Indians from the state of Punjab which borders Pakistan, there were fears that a nuclear attack would have a direct impact on the state.

Piara Khabra, Labour MP for the area and chairman of the Indian Workers' Association, said: "The problem is that if one country attacks the other then it's going to harm both. Many people in my constituency have families living close to the border, so obviously they are very worried.

"Both countries have terrible social problems, poverty and disease. It's a shame that they are not tackling these with the same enthusiasm. At the end of the day, this whole situation has been created by the hypocrisy of the West, which has no moral right to preach to either India or Pakistan."

Many felt that while war is not the answer, it is unfair that only the big five nuclear powers should be allowed to have weapons.

"It's hypocrisy". Inderjit Baines, a local resident, said. "Obviously no one wants a nuclear war, but if you are going to get rid of these weapons then all the countries in the world have to do it at the same time."

Surur Hoda of the Gandhi Foundation said: "Both coutries are in the same position, they are poor and 60 per cent of villages in both countries don't even have drinking water.

"It's sheer madness to spend all this money on arms, and no one is going to win in a nuclear war."

Loyalty to Pakistan was the first reaction on the streets of Bradford, but tempered with concern about the cost and potentially disastrous consequences of nuclear sabre-rattling.

"It is always the people at the bottom of the heap who suffer if the worst happens," said Arshad Hussain, who won a Bradford council seat for the Conservatives after a bitter contest in May.

"And they have plenty of relatives here. Yes, Pakistan was in a position where it had basically no choice, but everyone wants to see things calm down. Pakistan's economy is not in such a good state, and the cost of these tests is very worrying. The worry now is about what will happen next. People need to work for peace at every level."

His views were echoed on the streets of Manningham, the inner city area which houses many of Bradford's 60,000-strong Muslim community.

Yacoob Ansari, a clothes shop owner, said: "I was happy to see about the Pakistan tests on television. Pakistan is a small country and India is a very big one. What else was Pakistan to do?"

The city has seen no communal tension since India's tests, to the extent that the Interfaith Centre has not been asked even to schedule discussions of the nuclear issue. Former Labour councillor Rangzeb, chairman of the local Pakistan Forum, said there had been no trouble even in the immediate shock of the Indian tests. "Today, most people are saying Pakistan was forced into the tests," he said, "though there are others who feel a chance to get world opinion on our side has been lost.

"But there is no problem in Bradford itself. Things happening in India and Pakistan matter to people here but they shouldn't affect the peaceful relations we have."

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The benefits are mutual

Islamabad banks on patriotism as it calls on people to brace for hardship

AID/Suzanne Goldenberg in Islamabad, Mark Tran and John Vidal report on Pakistan's drastic attempts to stave off bankruptcy as overseas donors halt loans

PAKISTAN yesterday warned its citizens they would all have to pay for its nuclear tests, but it staved off an immediate threat of bankruptcy by freezing withdrawals from foreign currency bank accounts.

Banks and private money changers were closed to prevent the flight of hard currency from a country whose foreign exchange reserves are a paltry $620 million. The government plans more drastic measures, making use of a state of emergency declaration to crack down on tax evaders and loan defaulters, and the setting up of a National Council of Self Reliance.

"We need every dollar," said Sartaj Aziz, the finance minister, announcing a four-month suspension of withdrawals from foreign currency accounts, whose worth is estimated at $5.5 billion.

Mr Aziz said account holders would be allowed to withdraw funds in Pakistani rupees, but that he hoped investors would do the patriotic thing and buy defence and other government bonds.

The government believes it can withstand the loss of $920 million in new loans from the International Monetary Fund. But it fears the wider effects of a crisis in confidence in the economy. "There will certainly be some downsizing in investment," Mr Aziz said.

Meanwhile, some economists tried to minimise the impact of sanctions, saying they could be offset by sterner action against a people notorious for failure to file income tax returns or repay government loans. Fewer than 5 per cent of Pakistanis pay tax.

"If economic sanctions are the same as applied to India it's a mere slap on the wrist because sanctions apply to new money, new projects," said Dr Mahbubul Haq, a former finance minister.

But he admitted the prospect of increased arms spending could be ruinous. Pakistan already spends more than half of its budget on defence and debt servicing.

From 1990 to 1996, India and Pakistan together spent £43 billion on defence and £7.4 billion on education. Pakistan is the more vulnerable to sanctions because of its weaker economy.

The country, with a gross national product of £295 a head in 1996, has a foreign debt of £18 billion. United States sanctions would deprive Pakistan of £1.8 billion in aid, loans and loan guarantees.

Pakistan will suffer an immediate cut-off in direct US military and economic aid. In the 1999 US budget, Pakistan was to receive £215,000 for military training and £1.2 million for its battle against drugs. In the non-military sphere, Washington must cut off Pakistan's loans and end loan guarantees from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the US Export-Import Bank.

In other action required by US law, the administration will block any new lending by the IMF and the World Bank. This could badly hurt Pakistan as it leans heavily on both for economic support. The World Bank approved £500 million in loans this year and planned to lend £460 million in 1999.

"It's unclear whether the US can summon the critical mass to block these loans," said a World Bank official.

The IMF approved a three-year financing package of $920 million last October to help Pakistan get its economy into shape.

In absolute terms, India is the World Bank's biggest borrower, with cumulative lending of $27 billion as of April 1998. The sanctions against it could put the brakes on private US investment at a time when New Delhi is trying to woo foreign companies.

In all, India stands to lose $9.8 billion in US aid and assistance and about $2.4 billion from the banks. But both India and Pakistan have said that they are willing to tough out any sanctions.

Aid agencies last night predicted that any measures taken would hit the poor hardest. Davif Husselbee of Save the Children said in Islamabad: "If the World Bank suspends funding it will mean many long-term development projects for the most needy will be suspended. These might include community, primary education, credit and savings initiatives, literacy, HIV awareness and other social programmes. It could be very significant."



An army vehicle carries a medium-range surface to surface missile in military parade in Islamabad PHOTOGRAPH: MUZAMMIL PASHA

مكتبة من الرمل



A Pakistani child stands up to look while others offer special prayers of thanks yesterday in an Islamabad mosque after nuclear tests by Pakistan on Thursday. People nationwide showed support for the government PHOTOGRAPH: B. K. BANGASH

Whose finger is on the button?

MILITARY BALANCE/South Asia's atomic plans are driven not by a coherent command, nor by slow meticulous science, but by politics

Suzanne Goldenberg in Islamabad and Richard Norton-Taylor

INDIA and Pakistan are conducting nuclear explosions with such haste that they have yet to develop command structures, according to military analysts.

And for Pakistan, embracing a nuclear first-strike as an integral part of its military strategy is particularly seductive, analysts said yesterday — its conventional armed forces are about half the size of India's.

There is also a temptation to launch such a strike before India builds mobile launchers and hardened shelters. India is estimated to have enough enriched uranium for 90 nuclear warheads, against 10 for Pakistan.

"The short term will be more dangerous," said Professor Paul Rogers of Bradford University's school of peace studies. The threat is that Pakistan will adopt a "use them or lose them scenario", he added.

His views were echoed on the subcontinent, where analysts said that Pakistan was unlikely to agree to India's offer of a "no first-strike" pact, because that would defeat its point in going nuclear in the first place.

"So far the Pakistani position is that it is not willing to accept a no first-strike agreement," said retired Lieutenant-General Raghavan, director of the Delhi Study Group, an independent think-tank. "By agreeing to a no first-use, it would put itself at a great disadvantage because of India's great superiority in conventional forces."

"Now restraint is no longer there, we are both overtly nuclearised states with attendant dangers and problems," said Munir Ahmed Khan, who retired in 1991 after nearly 20 years as director of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission.

But Dr Khan said the pace and timing of the tests owed more to a desire to minimise international opprobrium than scientific compulsion: "I think the five tests by India and Pakistan were political."

India exploded three devices on May 11, and another two on May 13. Pakistan announced on Thursday that it, too, had exploded five.

"Why five tests in only one or two days? Even the most advanced nuclear-weapons states seldom conducted such extensive tests in one or two days. They took their time learning."

Such luxury will not be available to either country as they move now to develop nuclear command structures. Although India first exploded a nuclear device in 1974, and Pakistan claims to have acquired nuclear capability some 15 years ago, the decision-makers behind their nuclear programmes were never out in the open.

India has 1.1 million men under arms, compared to 600,000 in Pakistan. But the arms race has exacted a far crueller price in Pakistan, where defence accounts for at least a quarter of government spending.

India spends $9.4 billion (£5.8 billion) on defence, or 2.8 per cent of its GNP; Pakistan spends $2.9 billion (£1.8 billion) or 5.2 per cent of its GNP.

India divided its nuclear programme between the military Defence Research and Development Organisation and its civilian atomic energy organisation. In theory, Pakistan's nuclear programme was under the direction of Dr Khan, but by the mid-1970s he had lost authority to a younger rival at the Kahuta Research Laboratory.

"Neither side has any arrangements for a nuclear command structure," said General D. Bannerjee of New Delhi's Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies.

However, Pakistan is a step closer to a unified chain of command, he said, because its military is more integrated than India's. India's air, army and naval chiefs operate with relative autonomy. In Pakistan, more than two decades of dictatorship have made the army the real power.

The Pakistani army chief, General Jehangir Karamat, was in close contact with politicians in deciding to stage this week's nuclear tests.

India's Hindu nationalist coalition had promised on coming to power earlier this year to set up a national security council that would undertake a strategic review which would consider future nuclear strategy. Though it abandoned that pledge, the coalition still intends to set up a such a council. This could, presumably, help drive nuclear policy.

Though India and Pakistan agreed in 1991 not to attack each other's nuclear installations, that pact — for Pakistan at least — remains highly suspect following the Indian tests.

Analysts also pointed out that the nuclear relationship between India and Pakistan would not mirror those of the cold war: Indian and Pakistan were neighbours with a disputed border, a festering conflict — over Kashmir — and no confidence-building measures in place.

Stephen Cohen, an expert on India-Pakistan military affairs who is soon to join the Brookings Institution in Washington, put it this way: "Pakistan is a profoundly insecure state. It is a state that feels itself surrounded by enemies, beginning with Iran. Afghanistan has turned out to be a terrible disaster for them. The Indians are as troublesome as ever.

"Their friends are not really friends. The United States has moved out of the region, and the Chinese are cool. Add to that their domestic troubles."

Other US analysts said they believed India, now under a new Hindu nationalist leadership seeking to broaden its political support, is determined to acquire a world-power image it feels it has been unfairly denied.

The point was made clear in a statement on nuclear policy presented to India's Parliament on Wednesday by the prime minister, Atal Vajpayee. The bomb, he said, "is India's due, the right of one-sixth of mankind".

Brinkmanship and bravado in the valley of disaffection

FLASHPOINT/**Suzanne Goldenberg** reports on fears that Kashmir could be the trigger for a violent conflagration

EVEN on a day so tumultuous that newspapers hailed "Pakistan's finest hour" while economists predicted financial doom, there was a moment to spare for a favourite national obsession: the disputed territory of Kashmir.

Yesterday, as on most other days, Pakistani newspapers gave prominent space to a story from Indian-controlled Kashmir, where soldiers have all but crushed an uprising against New Delhi's rule.

Rather than the casualty reports that are followed here so closely, it was about a few stray celebrants of the Pakistani nuclear test in Srinagar, the summer capital of the Indian portion of the region.

In Islamabad, one of the thousands attending Friday prayers at the Faisal Mosque to offer a thanksgiving for the nuclear tests, said: "Although the arms race is a very bad thing, we had to have a strong position against our enemy, India.".

Jamila Abrar, a doctor, added: "It's not just about us saying that we should not be threatened, it is saying that India should not be allowed to go on persecuting Muslims in Kashmir."

To Washington and much of the world, Kashmir, parcelled out between India, Pakistan and China, is the most likely flashpoint for a confrontation between the newly nuclear states of India and Pakistan.

Tension in the already volatile region, like the rhetoric on Kashmir, has soared since New Delhi set off its first nuclear explosion on May 11. Yesterday the Indian prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, tried to step back from the brink by offering talks on a nuclear agreement.

But he was less yielding on Kashmir. As soldiers reportedly exchanged fire along the border in Jammu region, he warned Islamabad not to help those rebelling against New Delhi's rule.

"Pakistan should forget the idea of trying to capture Jammu and Kashmir using arms," he told the upper house of parliament.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the militants who have been fighting against New Delhi's rule since 1989, a charge Pakistan denies. Yesterday its foreign minister, Gohar Ayub Khan, turned the tables on India by accusing New Delhi of plotting the "hot pursuit" of militants across the divided frontier. The Indian home minister, L. K. Advani, has ruled out such plans.

The neighbours have fought two of their three wars since independence over Kashmir, and the mountain territory is divided along the line where their soldiers were stopped by a United Nations ceasefire in 1948.

Ever since then Pakistan has insisted that New Delhi must obey UN resolutions and hold a plebiscite in the valley. India insists that Kashmir is an integral part of its territory, and that it will countenance no outside mediation. Attitudes have hardened further since the uprising began in 1989.

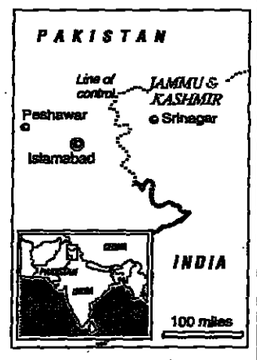
To India, control of Kashmir — its only Muslim-majority state — is proof of its claim to be a secular democracy. To Pakistan, Indian rule over the valley symbolises the global suffering of Muslims. To the people of Kashmir, the tug-of-war means their aspirations for independence are usually overlooked.

The neighbours are so far apart on Kashmir that they have been unable even to agree the terms on which discussions can start. Behind the sabre-rattling, however, it is unlikely that either wants to go to war.

"I don't think Kashmir as a flashpoint is capable of raising temperatures in the subcontinent to that extent," said V. R. Raghavan of the Delhi Policy Group, an independent think tank.

"One can't rule out the leadership on either side undertaking immature actions or indulging in rhetoric, but I don't think even that is capable of turning Kashmir into a nuclear battlefield."

The fear that Kashmir could provoke a confrontation drew a leading Kashmiri separatist alliance, the All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, to call for international pressure on India and Pakistan to settle the issue and avoid a regional nuclear arms race.



History of struggle

October 26, 1947 — The Maharajah of Kashmir, fearing tribal warfare, gives way to Indian pressure by "signing" the Instrument of Accession. 1947-48 — Heavy fighting takes place between Indian and Pakistani forces over Kashmir. On January 1, 1949 a ceasefire creates the first Line-of-Control.

1957 — The state is incorporated into the Indian Union under a new constitution. The puppet government agrees; the people are not consulted.

1965 — Heavy fighting breaks out again. Indian and Pakistani leaders sign the Tashkent agreement on January 1, 1966.

1971 — Indian forces again engage Pakistani troops in Kashmir. A new ceasefire and the signing of the Shimla agreement follow.

1989 — A renewed struggle for freedom begins, with Kashmiris taking up arms. The state government is dissolved and the state placed under direct control of the government.

So who is the real demon king? Is it Bill Gates or Rupert Murdoch? The squiggle provides the vital clue.
Matthew Engel

Opinion, page 9

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The endless crisis of aid

It's about power as well

ARE DISASTER appeals a disaster? The plea from Clare Short for aid agencies to break an "endless cycle" in which the spotlight is switched on crisis areas, and then off again, has added to the debate on humanitarian aid. The aid agencies and many journalists involved have had increasing doubts whether the current approach is effective or even always ethical. Few of those attending Thursday's conference in London on Dispatches from Disaster Zones, organised by a coalition of the British agencies, would accept the argument of the Secretary of State for International Development that emergency appeals should be stopped altogether. In the short run that would either mean failing to get the food or blankets where they were needed, or would force the agencies to dig deeper into reserves with no guarantee of replenishment. Yet there must be disquiet at the way in which human misery can become a "story" overnight and be demoted to a brief item a week later. There is also the question of intrusion, as Princess Anne observed to the same conference. Why is it acceptable to show a half-naked and emaciated Third World woman whose child is dying because she cannot produce milk for it when a comparable image of distress from the First World would be judged a breach of privacy?

Technical and political change over the last decade has made this a very topical issue. There is more television coverage as a result of the satellite explosion and 24-hour news channels: new technology also makes foreign news more immediate. But live reporting means less time to reflect and less time on the air. The print media are more likely now to take their agenda from television and to be influenced by the availability of good pictures. Comment and analysis has suffered. A study of the British channels shows that non-news programming on developing countries was reduced from 1,037 hours in 1989-90 to 790 in 1996-97. There were also fewer peak-time programmes about the developing world.

The focus of the aid agencies has also changed radically. Setting their own agendas has become more complex as they have become conduits for government and UN aid. They now need to adopt a higher and more competitive profile and find themselves embroiled in the business of news management — as reflected in recent controversy over whether or not to launch an appeal for southern Sudan. They are expected to be authorities, yet are often too close to the ground to understand the covert interests manipulating the situation. Is it right, the conference was asked, that they should become, by default, "arbiters of the needs of suffering populations"?

The common complaint in these discussions is the lack of analytical depth and perspective both in reporting by the media and in policy formation by agencies and governments. Rwanda and Zaire have been conspicuous recent examples. As a report from the Glasgow Media Group argues, too often the tragedies were explained in terms of "crude views of Africans and 'tribal' behaviour": the heart of the problem was that "public knowledge of Africa and much of the developing world is very limited". Humanitarian aid is no substitute for development: most famines and disasters are made by man not by nature; war and conflict fill the space which should be occupied by peaceful development. Whole populations have been plunged into misery by cynical power alignments, by local corruption or foreign greed, or simply because they don't feature on the geo-strategic map.

In the end, development is a profoundly political business: Ms Short has got it right — but it is a message for governments, including her own, not just the agencies.

A plan too fast

The doctors should be heard

A WEEK with Parliament in recess is a good time to reassess broken promises. A political party which made so much fuss about rising hospital waiting lists under the last government cannot complain when critics note they have continued to rise to a record level of 1.3 million under Labour despite its "early pledge" to reduce them. Ministers are on firmer ground with class sizes. The overcrowded now numbers an unacceptable 1.4 million — but they only promised to end such classes for children aged five to seven with a medium-term date of September 2001. On both fronts, if Labour had not been so imprudent as to adopt Conservative spending totals, more progress would have been achieved.

But last week's fuss over broken promises is hiding a much more serious problem: the revolt by family doctors over the Government's NHS reforms. The euphoria which greeted Labour's plan six months ago has evaporated. It was a clever plan with a desirable goal: a primary-care led health service. The scheme would rightly end the two-tier health system, which fundholding GPs introduced, and reduce the cost of administration by replacing annual contracts with three-year agreements. But it will work only if ministers carry health workers with them.

One of the biggest consultation exercises ever carried out in the NHS — 17 meetings attended by 3,000 GPs, community nurses and managers — expressed concern over a raft of issues. Boundaries for the new primary care groups (about 50 GPs serving 100,000 patients) are meant to be drawn within eight weeks. Some areas have not even begun the debate. New three-year agreements are meant to have been made by the Autumn but many may not have a chief executive by then. By next April, the new scheme is meant to have been launched. The pace of reform is too fast — and the funds needed to introduce the changes too short. Ministers should slow down: otherwise they may find their scheduled celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the NHS on July 1 will be spoilt by a BMA ballot withholding co-operation from a desirable plan.

Letters to the Editor

Woodhead refuted

CHRIS Woodhead of Ofsted "refutes categorically" the suggestion that he allowed his personal views to influence an HMI report (Letters, May 29). I can't see anything which *looks like* a refutation, only a rejection. If I was feeling a bit more charitable I'd say he was attempting to rebut the accusations. However, charity towards someone in charge of our "standards in education" seems overly generous if he can't tell the difference between the three Rs.
Andrew Denny.
London.

REFUTE: "prove falsity or error of (statement, opinion, argument) rebut or repel by argument" (COD).
Kevin McGrath.
Harlow, Essex.

I AM the full-time carer of my 13-year-old autistic son. Although receptive to ways of boosting the family's finances, I have been unable to find even part-time employment which would allow me the time and flexibility necessary to adequately meet my son's unpredictable needs. Whilst I empathise with Angela Browning (Browning quits to help autistic son, May 27) I note that she is still employed full-time as MP for Tiverton. Maybe my search for suitable employment should pursue a more political path.
Kevin Tock.
Penistone, S Yorks.

SO "friends and employees are *unanimous in praise*" of arms dealer Sam Cummings (*Obituaries, May 28*). *I suppose* it's too late to ask his victims if they share that view.
Alasdair Buchan.
Brighton.

THE *age of spell-checkers* has deprived us (mostly) of the Guardian's entertaining misspellings. Fortunately you have decided to reward us by rewriting the rules of mathematics: ". . . flattened to a 5ft by 10ft cube" (Two survive as car crushed between trucks, May 28).
Matt Tee.
London.

Proliferation of danger

I STRONGLY condemn the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan and demand strong international action to stop further proliferation and a nuclear arms race.

Western governments, the World Bank and IMF must share responsibility for this situation. Aid and loans to these two countries freed resources for the development of these weapons. The money meant to help eliminate poverty, ignorance, mostly went to corrupt governments and help in repression.

The deployment of nuclear-capable missiles in the subcontinent has made the disputed Punjab region an unthinkably dangerous place.
Iqbal Singh.
Punjabi Human Rights Internet, Reading.

TARIQ ALI is right to draw attention to the fact that Pakistan's nuclear bomb is an Islamic bomb (Muslim bomb, May 29). Muslims often refer to the Islamic Nation — the idea of the nation state being inimical to their beliefs. Let's not mince words: Islam, rather than Pakistan, is now a nuclear power. How soon will it be before this technology is deployed in Islam's other confrontation — against Israel?

Muslims will argue that there is a precedent. The Americans have supplied Britain with components for Trident. Why shouldn't Muslims also help their friends? Just imagine Saddam or Gadafy with nuclear weapons. It would place Europe within range of an Islamic bomb. Suddenly the confrontation on the Indian subcontinent seems closer to home.
Peter Stockill.
Middlesbrough.

WHILE wholly opposing the nuclear weapons tests carried out by India and Pakistan, we condemn the United States government for:

Leading a programme of economic sanctions which will hurt the people of India and Pakistan rather than their governments;

Imposing sanctions to further the interests of US business, for example, by blocking development of India's competitive software industry;

Intervening in a part of the world where earlier US interventions have fuelled a regional arms race;

And imposing a lopsided global "nuclear disarmament" policy where five of the most powerful nations still have nuclear weapons.

We also condemn the governments of India and Pakistan for ignoring the basic needs of their people and draining scarce resources into an arms race; moreover, for using the tests to pose as anti-imperialist while remaining committed to economic policies which serve foreign capital.

We particularly condemn India's BJP-led government for initiating the nuclear arms race in south Asia, and whipping up communal feeling against Indian Muslims.
Ken Livingstone MP.
Tony Benn MP.
Hilary Rose,
Professor emerita, University of Bradford.
Dr Gautam Appa,
London School of Economics.
Dr Shalini Randeria,
University of Berlin.
and 20 others.

YOU quote President Clinton as saying after the Pakistani nuclear tests that he could not believe that the Indian subcontinent was "about to repeat the worst mistakes of the 20th century when we know it is not necessary to peace, to security, to prosperity . . ." (On the nuclear precipice, May 29).

This admission, by the leader of the country with the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons, that they are not necessary for a country's security, destroys all the rhetoric of the last half century.
Jim Addington.
(CND National Council member)
Surbiton, Surrey.

NORTH Korea's missile is called the Nodong. What does that say about the reasons behind the nuclear arms race?
Phil Goddard.
London.

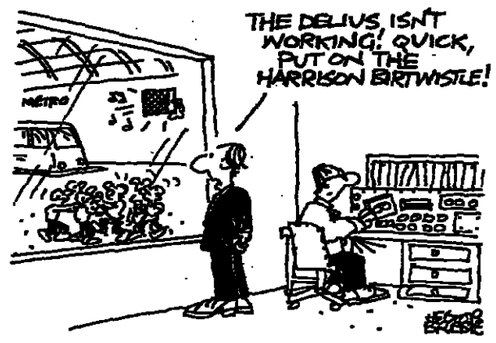
Facism remains a burning issue

THE Japanese government is *not alone* in hiding behind "legalism, euphemism and constitutional niceties" (Jonathan Freedland, May 27). Earlier this month, the city council of Nuremberg refused the artist Wolfram Kastner permission to paint a permanent black scorch-mark in the Market Square where in 1933 the Nuremberg professors led their students to burn the books of Jewish, pacifist and socialist authors. The artist defied the council and was promptly arrested. He is now to be the sent the bill for the cleaning up operation.

On the first national Day against Violence and Racism in Austria this month, the provincial governor of the Tirol refused to allow a commemorative plaque to be erected on the former Gestapo headquarters in Innsbruck (now one of the government's own offices) until further academic research has been carried out.

Even those governments which have apologised actively continue on a regional level to suppress national guilt, often to the embarrassment and dismay of their own people.
Stephen Plaice.
Brighton.

TO signal a break with the past the UK Government should make a final ex gratia payment to its surviving POWs and change official commemoration of the 1939-45 war into a general remembrance of the victims of racism and fascism of all nationalities, by so doing showing that we as a country want to live in the 1990s not the 1940s.
P J Hayes.
London.



Finely tuned anti-crime drive

I HATE to correct one of Smallweed's reports, but his assertion that "some railway" had piped Delius into trains in order to calm the passengers was not true.

We introduced Delius on one of the stations of the Tyne and Wear Metro — Shiremoor — where there was a growing problem of youths gathering, in order to disperse them (ie by playing music which those youths would consider extremely unattractive).

After four months of the experiment, incidents of crime at that station have gone down by 26 per cent and we are now extending it — not necessarily using the same composer though — to three other stations shortly.
Michael J. Parker.
Director general, Nexus, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Slicker cities

I HOPE other local authorities will take their cue from Hammersmith Council's attempt to modernise (Council to get first US-style city boss, *May 26*). The clear message from the business community is that current arrangements for involving them in local decision-making are seen as bureaucratic and time-consuming, and the division of responsibilities between, and exercise of power by, officers and members is confusing.

The Government is likely, for political rather than practical reasons, to reform the business rate to allow local authorities to charge a supplementary rate on top of the national rate. This makes the need for a new commitment by local councils to give their disenfranchised ratepayers — the business community — a real role in local decision-making a matter of urgency.
Simon Sperryn.
Chief executive, London Chamber of Commerce.

Islam's image

CATHERINE Bennett mentions "Akbar Ahmed, the ubiquitous Islamophobia spotter" for praising the mercy of the Saudi king towards the two British nurses convicted of murder (*Buying the truth, May 23*).

It is unfortunate that, after the death of Kalim Siddiqui, the media thinks Prof Ahmed represents British Muslim thinking. Like Siddiqui, Prof Ahmed represents a reactionary strand of Islam. Sophisticated Muslims do not see every issue as pro- or anti-Islamic, and believe Muslims today should not revert to the ways of the middle ages.

Whether these nurses were guilty or not and the Saudi judicial system is just or not, it is certain that, had these women been Asian or African, they would by now have met the Almighty.
Mohammed Arif.
British Afro-Asian Solidarity Organisation, London.

Man Who Shot Liberty Valance – on black and white film

UNLIKE Mark Lawson, in his attack on contemporary film-makers who continue to have recourse to monochrome cinematography (The play-it-again scam, G2, May 28), I cannot claim to know how Orson Welles would have shot his films today.

All I know is that he did elect to make Chimes At Midnight in black and white in 1966, when colour was already standard, just as Hitchcock made the black-and-white Psycho in 1960, John Ford the black-and-white Man Who Shot Liberty Valance in 1962, and Billy Wilder the black-and-white Fortune Cookie in 1966. In more recent years, directors such as Fassbinder, Scorsese, Wenders, Jarmusch, Truffaut, Straub, Kaurismaki and Wong Kar-Wei have followed suit.

It's as ridiculous to insist that an artist conform to whatever happen to be the technological norms of the day as it is to ignore the fact that beautiful black-and-white cinematography is also one of the cinema's most potent aesthetic parameters.
Gilbert Adair.
London.

MONOCHROME film emphasises texture and contrast, and draws attention to composition rather than cultural meaning. It can also "neutralise" judgment because it takes viewers out of the immediate environment; with colour, viewers can more readily imagine themselves within the frame. Contemporary directors such as Peter Greenaway or Lars von Trier use both formats in the same film. "Refusal to use the palette" is a decision to use another palette.
Neil Cockburn.
Stuttgart, Germany.

IT IS NOT possible in technicolor to appreciate the marvellous aesthetic qualities of line, form, and tone which can be achieved in black and white. What would happen to film noir? Agreed, all films are not produced in black and white for aesthetic reasons. Often it is, indeed, metaphor, as in Schindler's List, and not especially interesting visually.
Ann Hewlett.
Stowmarket, Suffolk.

WHAT would we make of a colour version of Toland's Citizen Kane, or Krasker's Third Man, Brief Encounter and Odd Man Out? The latest technology is not always the most appropriate.
John Ashwell.
Eastleigh, Hants.

PASS NOTES doubts the truth of Burger King's claim that the favourite film of those aged 16 to 25 is Gone With The Wind (G2, May 27). My daughter, aged 14, asked to name her favourite films, chose Gone With The Wind and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. Asked to explain, she cited the glorious technicolour, the glamour, Marilyn Monroe and Vivien Leigh, and the fact that the women in both films wielded great power over men.
Kim Shahabudin.
Tilehurst, Berks.

Universal truth

WE agree with Polly Toynbee (Sheep and Goats, May 27) that the Government should urgently address the needs of today's pensioners on lower incomes, but she is being unrealistic in saying that "means-testing has to be where it's at". Fifty years of means-testing since the National Assistance Act have demonstrated the reverse. It is costly and complex to administer and still fails to reach around one in 10 pensioners who are missing out on up to £1.7 billion in unclaimed benefits. The universal pension, far from being allowed to "wither", should be the foundation of retirement income.
Sally Greengross.
Director general, Age Concern, London.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters. The Country Diary is on page 10.

India and Pakistan have joined the ranks of nations challenging Western-imposed rules

Bad boys on the block

Martin Woollacott



WHAT have Atal Behari Vajpayee, Ryuto Hashimoto, Sani Abacha and Binyamin Netanyahu got in common? Or Nawaz Sharif, Slobodan Milosevic and Saddam Hussein?

All are children of disobedience. They are all challenging the set of economic, political, and military principles, largely Western defined, which are supposed to guide what is called the international community. Sharif and Vajpayee let off their bombs even though non-proliferation is the centrepiece of international security as understood by Washington. Hashimoto resists pressure on Japan to open its economy and spend its way out of recession, even though Washington and international financial institutions see this as a solution to Asia's economic crisis.

Netanyahu ignores the new American peace proposals even though Washington deems them the only way to achieve a settlement in the Middle East. Abacha, Saddam, and Milosevic, worse men and more familiar demons, simply go on their destructive way. The list could be extended, with old actors like Gadafy and Burma's generals, and new ones like Laurent Kabila in the Congo.

Hardly a week goes by without the New York Times or the Washington Post calling for aid to be withdrawn or loans postponed to discipline one regime or another. Children of disobedience these regimes may be, but they do not seem to fear the wrath of either the United States or of God. The nuclear tests in the subcontinent are only the most spectacular example of a revolt that seems to be spreading against the system. It may soon to be quicker to draw up a list of countries not being sanctioned by Washington than a list of those which are.

Now, in India and Pakistan, we have two more "rogue states" to add to the swelling ranks of those that have offended in one degree or another. It is true that there has never been an age when there was full agreement on the way the world should be run, nor an era when complete obedience was the norm, even among client states and satellites. Nor is the present revolt in any sense total. Most countries rebel only against one or two aspects of the system. Like the burglar who wants to be free to steal but also wants clean streets and good schools, countries want to get away with their own particular offence while leaving the general order intact. But the danger is that each specific "violation", presented as a special case by the perpetrator, erodes what there is of system and creates precedents for further disorder.

This new disorder arises partly because the great conflicts of the second half of the century are over, and the discipline they imposed has dissipated. It arises partly because of democracy, or the deformations of democracy, which produce internal pressures that can outweigh anything coming from the outside. And it arises partly from the faltering will and less-than-clear judgment of the countries that mainly define the world dispensation, particularly the US.

The popularity, the votes and the political impetus that the nuclear decision could provide were, in India, a lollipop waiting for politicians to reach out and take. That has long been true. When ministers were called to an emergency cabinet meeting in 1974, they thought it would be about the national railway strike or the devaluation of the rupee. After Mrs Gandhi announced that India had exploded a nuclear device, she could not be heard for several minutes because of the enthusiastic thumping of ministers' fists on the table. But the new and more serious decision to test specifically military devices was made at a moment in the country's democratic history when a certain bankruptcy is apparent. Congress is in decline, while a strong alternative party of government has failed to emerge.

INSTEAD, what has emerged is the old Hindu nationalist party, helped into office by an assortment of regional parties which agree on little nationally except staying in power. The nuclear bombs were an easy way out for them, although not as easy as they had imagined. As the experienced men in opposition, like Inder Kumar Gujral, the previous prime minister, testify that there was no compelling consideration of national security to justify the nuclear decision, the mood in India may be shifting. But what has been done cannot be undone. Meanwhile, in Pakistan, a government which had not tested in response would probably not have survived. The subcontinent has been nuclearised by democratic politicians interested in votes and office, presenting nuclear weaponry as a means of achieving parity, India with China, and Pakistan with India.

Writers like Samuel Huntingdon have argued that there is a general revolt by non-Western countries which want to acquire weapons of mass destruction in order both to dominate their regions and to deter American or other outside intervention. Mass destruction weapons are their "equaliser" against the West, he says, just as nuclear weapons were the West's equaliser in a conflict where the Soviet Union's conventional forces were thought, probably wrongly, to be greatly superior to those of the US and western Europe. While Huntingdon's thesis may correctly gauge the motivation of some countries, like Iraq, it hardly seems applicable to India and Pakistan. Yet a repudiation of the Western military order was certainly part of the way in which India presented its decision. Huntingdon says that the US is operating a counter-proliferation "hold-down policy which in the end is bound to fail". Indian and Pakistani nuclearisation makes that dismal conclusion more likely to be true, particularly if the incipient arms race between the two countries is not capped in some way.

But the more general point is that the subcontinent's bombs are a symptom of a more general unhappiness with the present world dispensation. On the economic front, the resentment of Asian countries against the prescriptions coming out of Washington is palpable. It is certainly arguable that American and Western insistence on deregulation and the dismantling of barriers to the "free" flow of investment and currency prepared the Asian disaster, which is now compounded by an IMF austerity programme that bears down almost entirely on Asian countries and hardly at all on Western banks and firms which also bear responsibility for what went wrong.

Suharto in Indonesia resisted the IMF because he knew its programme would destroy him politically, which it did. His successors, if they are to survive, may have to challenge the system much more rigorously, and, in any such challenge, they can probably count on massive popular backing. Russia's economic problems could conceivably push it into a similar repudiation of Western remedies and in general must feed an anti-Western nationalism.

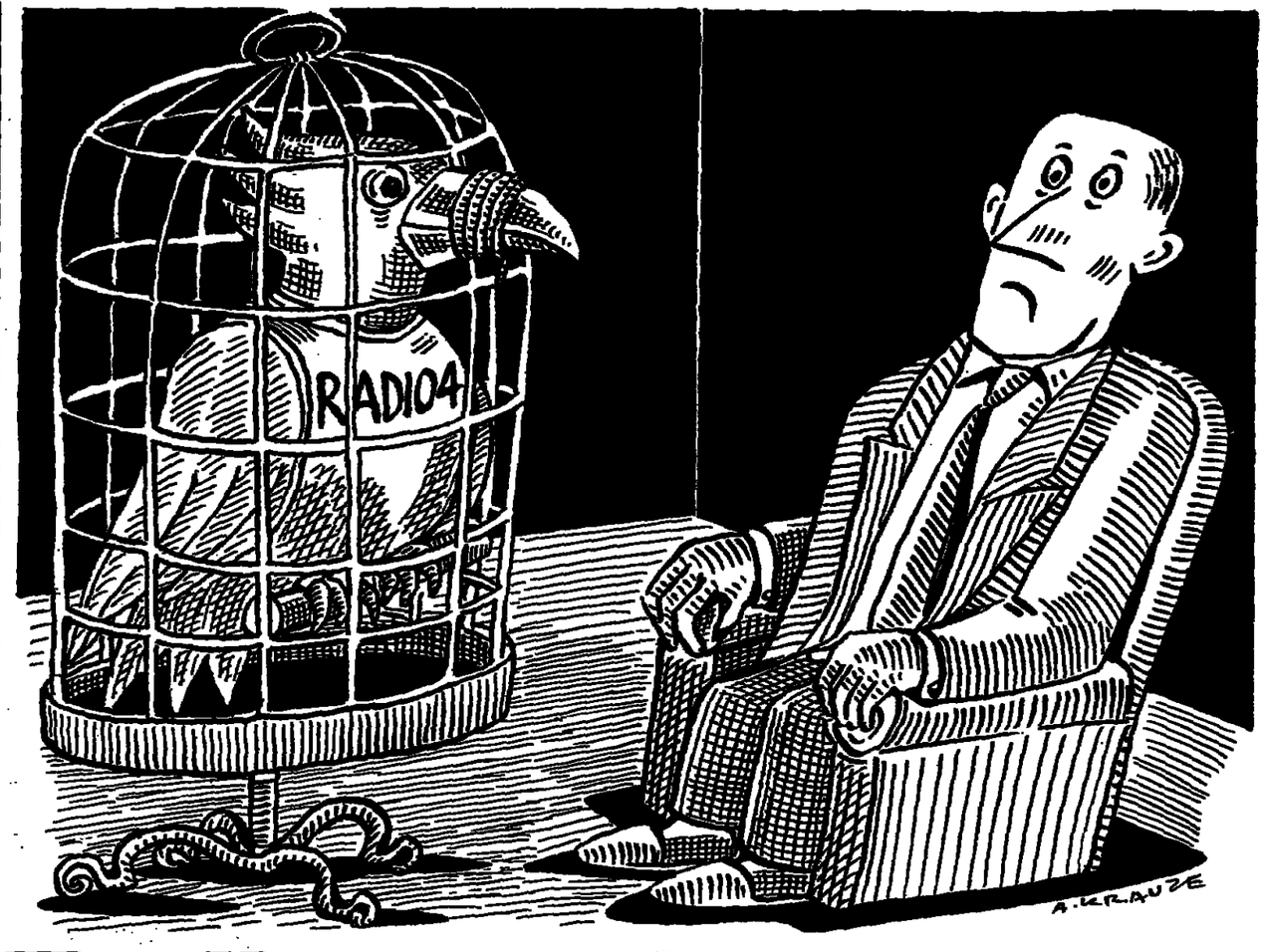
It is not a question of whether the US, with its unique position in the world, is right or wrong on any particular issue. But a global dispensation must convince; it must work for most countries most of the time; it must accomodate interests; it must be perceived as relatively just; it must show successes; and it must be forcefully pursued. That is what is at issue today.

صكذا من الاصل

Saturday opinion

The return to the drama of the nuclear age concentrates the mind wonderfully

Sound of the interval bell



Mark Lawson



BRITISH children during the first eight decades of this century played happily in the streets and parks, while their parents worried that they would grow up to fight or die in a war or a bomb explosion. More recently, mothers and fathers have given little thought to the call-up, the black-edged telegram from the front, the farewell hug in the underground shelter or (for the last couple of years) the car bomb, yet were frightened to let their offspring walk to the shops. You might call this shift the balance of terror. Fear had relocated from politics to the personal.

This week — with Pakistan following India into the nuclear age and financial turmoil in Russia — the balance of terror perhaps began to move again. During such international tension, the instinctive, selfish question — except, perhaps, for the highest-minded followers of global politics — is: how frightened should I be? But this is not an improper concern, for it touches fundamentally on the psychology of being a citizen. An age is defined by its fears.

On Wednesday night, I heard what was, in two senses, a conversation in an interval. During the 15 gin-and-tonic minutes at a performance of Michael Frayn's brilliant new play Copenhagen — which restages a meeting between two forefathers of nuclear physics, Werner Heisenberg and Nils Bohr — a number of spectators were

The middle-aged were confident that Armageddon was coming

making complaints along the lines of: "Bit late for a Bomb play. Would have made more impact in the 80s." Twenty four hours later, these half-time remarks were contradicted. We were back in the theatre of war. The second half of the nuclear age was beginning. The old-aged and middle-aged in Britain are psychologically marked by the international anxieties of their childhood. The former dreaded for at least five years dying as soldiers or living as Germans. The latter were grimly confident that Armageddon would come through nuclear weapons.

FOR a while after Berlin united, the fear of environmental self-destruction seemed likely to replace the Bomb, but ozone never captured the imagination in the way that plutonium had. In the past 10 years, ecological panic has shaded into pre-millennial tension, but these insecurities, at least in Britain and America, have generally been domestic rather than international: the safety of children, the availability of jobs. The certainty of extermination has been replaced by an assumption of healthy long life.

Many writers have suggested that the cold war period resulted in a general psychological condition of paranoia, especially in America. That theory can now be updated to advance the view that the absence of a specific threat in the past 10 years has resulted in a prevailing malady of complacency and self-obsession.

In retrospect, the solemnity — and, to modern eyes and ears, pomposity — of the politics and media of the past may be seen as in part a reflection of the current or very recent reasons to be serious: the daily expectation of invasion or death.

Similarly, the frivolity and triviality of much modern discourse — post-modernism, happy-clappy politics — is a product of a decade in which nothing seemed to matter very much; in which — in Middle America or Modern Britain — it was possible to live in a cocoon of wealthy security.

From the 50s to the 80s, memories of the second world war and subsequent cold war paranoia produced terrible consequences in xenophobic politics, a vast and greedy arms industry and a violent and suspicious popular culture. But 10 years of post-cold-war complacency have produced effects which, though not yet equivalent, remain regrettable.

Politics became dominated by the selfishness of voters and the crowd-pleasing theatricality of leaders, these movements combining to create a democracy in which ideas were considered tedious and debate antique. Even wars lost their awfulness: in the absence of the nuclear stand-off between America and Russia, the Gulf war established international conflict as safe, containable, even entertaining.

IN THIS culture of low stakes, the media felt less and less responsibility to cover the world in a serious way. Serious discussion seems to have taken place in some news rooms about the relative weight to give to the Pakistani bomb and the nuclear row between Ginger Spice and her songsisters.

It was entirely fitting that, the day before the Pakistan tests, it was revealed that Tony Blair had just recorded an appearance on the Des O'Connor chat show (in which he cracked jokes about his mother-in-law and the Queen), while Gordon Brown was working on a television special with Ulrika Johnsson, intended to explain the single European currency to a general audience.

Few would want the return of paranoia and xenophobia in our dealings with the world. But a period of over-reaction to the terrors of the world has been followed by a period of under-reaction. The chill nuclear wind from Islamabad this week might provide a useful corrective to the 10-year-long hot aimless summer of western politics and culture.

And what is the proper level of dread with which to regard the deadly weapons of the East? The military theorist Lawrence Freedman has cheekily pointed out that, logically, the west should welcome Pakistan's decision to achieve nuclear equality with India. The nations are merely emulating the balance of terror which — we are invited to believe — kept the peace in the West for 40 years. We ought to believe that there is now no risk of war at all. Yet, oddly, the greatest supporters of the balance-of-terror argument — the western military and weapons industries — seem unlikely to take this line and will push for greater expenditure.

For the citizen, the most likely result will be low-level paranoia — for the weapons are not yet aimed directly at us — and perhaps a revival of environmental concerns. The most beneficial outcome would be a general psychological adjustment: a restored sense of why politics and the rest of the world matter. The old cry of the cold war demagogue was: "It's later than you think!" It wasn't. But this week's news alerts us that we may also have misread the clock face, exaggerating the blissful earliness of the hour. The interval is over and it's back to the drama.

Trailer trash

Catherine Bennett

COMING up later in the Guardian — in the Saturday section, we profile Lord Winston. How does he combine his two lives, as fertility expert and globe-trotting television presenter? Looking ahead to the bottom of this page, Matthew Engel — sometimes comical, sometimes poignant, always unpredictable! — talks computers, while over on the magazine, Linda Grant writes movingly about her mother.

In this column, in the next few paragraphs we'll be looking at Radio 4 and the state of the Today programme. Has Boyle gone too far with his changes, or are the complainers just a load of barmy old women? Why is Radio 4 punctuated with trailers for itself — "From our Own Correspondent... sometimes poignant, sometimes funny, always relevant..." — most irritatingly, in the case of the Today programme, with trailers for impending items within the same programme: "Coming up in the next half hour, the families of CJD victims... Why so many bees are swarming these days..." Has research shown that Today listeners restlessly switch off if the news is insufficiently diverting? If so, perhaps it's time to introduce musical interludes, to move things along on dull days.

But James Boyle, the Controller of Radio 4, says the trailers are in our heads. Listeners have dreamed these interruptions, just as they have imagined any faults in the schedule he introduced two months ago. His critics, Boyle told one interviewer, are "writing about themselves". On Feedback, a forum for complaints rather than congratulations, letters had been running nine to one against his innovations. One listener complained of a "dulling" — not dumbing — down. "Absolute rubbish," Boyle responded, when this was put to him. Why, only the other day the Today programme had learnedly discussed Machiavelli. Besides, he said, a recent survey of listeners had shown that 46 per cent "broadly like" his changes.

Certainly, even Feedback listeners have not responded to the new schedule with the *cucafuego* that has previously streamed down on unsatisfactory programmes, such as the legendary Anderson Country. This may be because many of Boyle's changes were both careful and extensive, not of a kind to invite instant condemnation or derision. Worthwhile programmes were moved, rather than dumped. Many of the programmes he trashed, deserved it. None of the many new ones sounded dreadful — or not until you actually heard them.

Now the direction of Boyle's changes is clearer. The price to be paid for popularity is

On Radio 4 whimsy is substituted for reality, and the politicians have become sinisterly silent

irrelevance. Increasingly, whimsy is substituted for reality, conversation replaces argument. Much of this is perfectly enjoyable — you can see why many people "broadly like" — but it is also eminently missable. Looking back, this retreat from topicality was clearly signalled by the shunting of Yesterday In Parliament and The Week In Westminster to places where many listeners would never pursue them — long wave and Thursday evenings. At the time, only politicians protested, and were naturally accused of pomposity and self-interest.

It was hard, in the beginning, to imagine feeling nostalgic about Call Robin Lustig, or the Moral Maze. Now that they have gone, replaced by the sickly probings of The Choice, and the ineffable silliness of The Candidate, one recognises that they did, at least, respond to live issues and events, and even, on occasion, influenced public debate. Now, all that is left to the Today programme.

BOYLE'S decision to extend Today sounded high-minded, but has proved to be the reverse: early risers get a numbing dose of business news; slugabeds are punished with protracted blithering about wacky arts events, and with woodenly confected "debates".

Leaving aside the jocular trails and pleas for listener participation, the middle part of the Today programme retains its intelligence. If the programme is flabby, compared with its glory days at the end of the last administration, this is a measure of New Labour's determination not to account for itself. As Norma Desmond said, more or less, Today is big, it's the politicians that got smaller. To be precise, they got invisible. Last week Tony Blair was asked to justify his position on Japan. He refused — preferring to contribute a column to the Sun. No one else would substitute for him. Nor would anyone one from the Government agree to discuss the minimum wage. Nor would Chris Smith come on and explain what on earth is happening at the Arts Council. Instead, he wrote a column for this newspaper, protesting that the "arts are for everyone". Unlike their minister. More bravely, Frank Dobson went on air to explain when a hospital closure is not a hospital closure — but only on condition that he would not face a Tory critic. Robin Cook graciously consented to tell Pakistan and India that they ought to try and get along — but was not nobbled on any domestic issues. As James Naughtie said last week, "The manipulation can be sinister."

In the circumstances, Radio 4's sidelined political coverage is disastrous. When Today was dominated by political jousting, features came as a relief. Now ministers refuse to show up, and the presenters are required to solicit e-mails. It may be Blair's fault, not Boyle's, but the programme is enfeebled. What use is a debate on Machiavelli if you can't expose the real thing?

The demon king of communication is re-writing English with his secret weapon

Squiggles

Matthew Engel



SO WHO is the real demon king? Is it Bill Gates or Rupert Murdoch? The squiggle provides the vital clue.

Journalists are always inclined to plump for Murdoch. His staff have to attend places like Wapping, which has the atmosphere of a medium-security prison without the consolation provided by a ready supply of drugs. His papers and TV channels are at worst softly pornographic, at best soulless and mechanical. He holds governments in thrall.

Gates, in comparison, seems inoffensive. The Clinton Administration has dared to take him on. And a joker in Belgium actually landed a custard pie on him. It is impossible to imagine this happening to Murdoch. In certain crucial respects, however, Gates has reached areas Rupert never has. This column is in his thrall too.

I will explain (aware as I do so that "My New Computer" is undoubtedly the third Most Boring Subject for a newspaper column, behind only "The Day The Builders Came", along with "What Happened at Sainsbury's").

For it is only when you get a new computer that you begin to understand the power that lurks behind Gates's innocent features: power of which the man himself is perhaps only dimly aware, and covering areas that cannot interest him.

Scott McNealy, the head of Sun Microsystems, told a US Senate hearing in March that Microsoft is trying to control "the written and spoken language of the digital age". He said: "The only thing that I'd rather own than Windows is English, because then I could charge you $249 for the right to speak it, and I could charge you an upgrade fee when I add new letters."

But, in a subtle and unexpected way, the man who controls the software IS starting to control English. When you buy a new PC these days, it comes with vast numbers of in-built features, provided by the Gates company, Microsoft. There is, for instance, the card game Free Cell, a clever and addictive version of patience that has become a secret cult. In any office, on any train or plane, a large number of the earnest-looking people staring at screens are in fact playing this game rather than working. I suspect it is causing more lost man-hours than fin.

But more significant is Word 97, the latest word-processing system, or what was the latest word-processing system a few weeks ago, which includes among its many gadgets a spelling and grammar check that operates by underlining words it dislikes with a squiggle.

Now, as any techie can tell you, this is not compulsory. You can switch the check off. Few people do: it is very useful. If you are in the habit of typing the word "almsot" every time you want to say "almost", it is extremely helpful to have a machine that warns you. If you want, it will change the word automatically. This can cause terrible trouble if you have to write to that nice couple you met on holiday: Graeme and Zena Almsot, none of whose names the computer will recognise.

I edit Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, which has been spelt that way since 1864. Not according to Word 97. Someone in Gates's office has decided almanac is correct. The book is regularly mentioned in newspapers: half the time now it is spelt the Gates way rather than ours. Theoretically, the machine is programmed to reject Americanisms: in the UK version, color and labor get the squiggle, not colour and labour.

Theoretically, you can cus-

It was lucky William Faulkner never wrote on a word processor

tomise it to your heart's content. But it works insidiously, accepting some names, rejecting others. Gates is OK, but Murdoch is not. (Funny, that). Naturally, his Silicon Valley enemy McNealy gets the squiggle. Blair and even Hague are OK; Ashdown isn't. Paisley is in; Trimble isn't. Kate Moss, yes; Claudia Schiffer no. Sainsbury's is out, but at least Tesco keeps it company.

All right. You can simply ignore the computer or re-fettle it. But there is a more sizable problem. No, sizeable. I was always taught that where there are two alternative ways of spelling, it's better to use the shorter version: you can save trees. But when a computer is instructing you to the contrary you have to be very strong-minded to stand up to it. At the very least, it should be a matter of judgement. Judgement, actually. An anonymous spelling Nazi at Microsoft has decided. And his or her influence is immense.

Gates's is also out. Only the new-fangled usage — Gates' — passes muster. The computer also checks grammar. Very kind of it. But not everything in grammar constitutes an iron rule. I like semi-colons; the Nazi doesn't. He doesn't even think "semi-colons" should be hyphenated.

He has iron rules for sentence construction. Short sentences without verbs, the sort favoured by AJP Taylor or Lord Deming, are out. Long sentences are even worse. It was lucky William Faulkner never wrote on a word processor. The second sentence of The Unvanquished gets a squiggle for being too long before it reaches the halfway point.

I used to have confidence in my own wordsmithery, whether or not anyone else did. Now I have an anonymous inspector, instructing me from the screen. It is unsettling, and Rupert Murdoch has never reached this far into my brain.

THE SPELL-CHECK is now off-duty. This week's list comprises potatoes from the 1998 seed catalogues. They always sound to me like the runners in a five-furlong handicap at Kempton Park. Belle de Fontenay; Linzer Delikatess; Marfona; Dunluce; Maris Bard; Maris Piper; Pentland Javelin; Arran Consul; Edzell Blue and Ballydoon.

Paris from £108 return inc. taxes
Nice from £166 return inc. taxes
Manchester from £69 return inc. taxes
Amsterdam from £86 return inc. taxes
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0845 6071632
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British Midland
The Airline for Europe
Prices quoted available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Travel must include a Saturday night stay. Flight prices include UK and foreign levied taxes (exchange rates may vary). Calls are recorded.
Internet http://www.flybritishmidland.com

Barry Goldwater

Loser who won at last

THE paradox of the long political career of Senator Barry Goldwater, who has died aged 89, was that, having suffered one of the most humiliating defeats of any presidential candidate in US history, he probably did more than anyone to ensure that Republicans controlled the White House for most of the following 28 years.

When, two years after taking office in 1992, President Clinton faced the first Republican-controlled Congress in 40 years, it completed a process the senator from Arizona had started nearly three decades earlier. Goldwater's lasting achievement was to transform the Republicans from a party controlled by a wealthy Eastern liberal establishment into a radical conservative movement which spread its geographical appeal more widely and its political message more deeply into America's social structure.

He was a more complex character than his impromptu often wild, political comments conveyed. He came from an American political tradition which has no precise parallel in Europe, the rigidly constitutional maverick with a Jeffersonian belief that the least government is the best government.

In his final years, he outraged his traditional constituency by campaigning strongly for homosexual rights, arguing there was no constitutional basis to discriminate against citizens doing no harm to anyone else. He also became a fierce critic of the encroachment of fundamentalist Christian organisations into politics. "If they make a religious organisation out of the Republican Party," he said, "you can kiss politics goodbye."

Barry Morris Goldwater was born into a family which fled Tsarist oppression in Poland in the early years of the 19th century. His ancestors were Jews called Goldwasser who anglicised their name and adopted Christianity. They opened a saloon bar for California gold rush miners, but soon realised they could make far greater profits by combining it with a brothel. When the gold rush collapsed they opened a general store in Arizona.

The area was still only a territory when Goldwater was born, and his uncle was a leading member of the constitutional convention that preceded statehood in 1910.

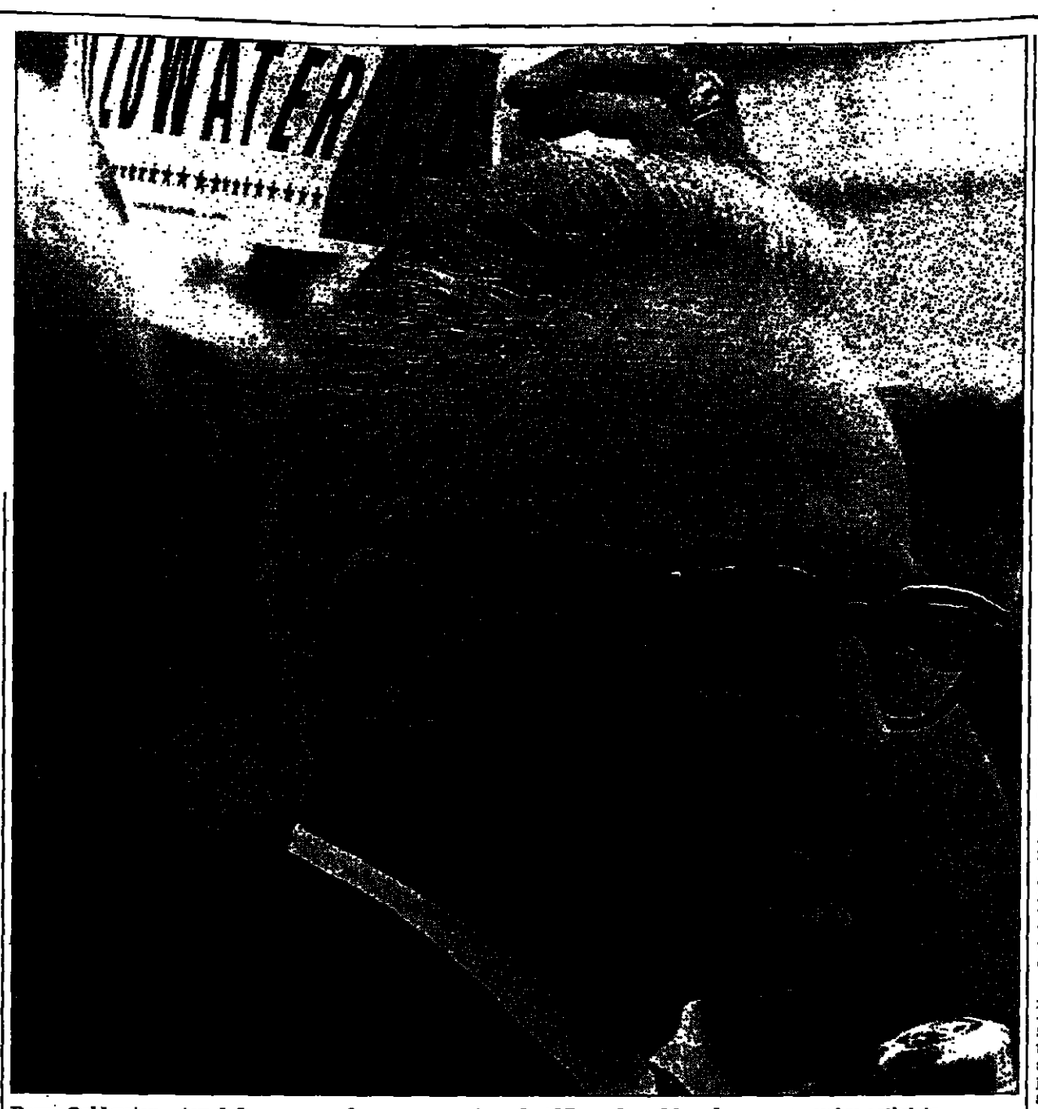
Arizona's initial application for statehood was rejected by the US Senate, because its constitution allowed judges to be sacked by popular vote. Only when this had been removed was statehood granted. Within days of its admission, Arizona passed a constitutional amendment which reinserted the offending clause — and obstinately reaffirmed the American Founding Fathers' belief that each state had the right to determine its own governance.

After doing poorly at the local high school in Phoenix, young Barry was sent to the Staunton Military Academy in Virginia, giving him a lifelong absorption in military affairs (his only major legislative achievement was the creation of a unified Defence Department). He graduated as the outstanding cadet of his year and seemed destined for a military career until his father's sudden death in 1929 obliged him to take his place in the family firm.

This was at the start of the Depression and Goldwater's experiences over this period had a profound influence on his later political beliefs. He argued that the company had only survived through rigid financial discipline.

"We cut the inventory, skimped on advertising, switched off lights to save electricity, and reduced deliveries. Everyone in the store took a cut in pay, including me, and we didn't fire anybody. We never sued anyone to collect an overdue bill and we never missed a payroll." This was translated into his recipe for a national economic policy. "When individuals or companies go broke," he said, "creditors seize available assets, liquidate them, and then take their loss. Governments don't go broke, they just print more money."

Less well known was his enlightened record as an employer. Before the second world war, and well before it was common commercial currency, he introduced health insurance for his employees, brought in a profit-sharing scheme, and was the first Arizona shopkeeper to hire black sales staff.



Barry Goldwater ... tough forerunner of a new generation of middle and working class conservative activists



Branded a fascist, racist, warmonger, nuclear madman, a candidate who couldn't win — and that was by his own party members

He had learned to fly in his spare time, but had been rejected by the air force because of poor sight. When the war came to America in 1941 he was assigned to ferrying new aircraft across the Atlantic and eventually became a major-general in the Air Force Reserve. By the time ill-health and age grounded him, he claimed to have flown 165 different types of aircraft.

His interest in politics developed when he returned to civilian life, beginning with his election to the Phoenix City Council shortly after the war. In 1952, the year that Eisenhower ran for the presidency, Goldwater decided to campaign for the seat held by the Democratic majority leader in the US Senate, Ernest McFarland, one of the most influential politicians in the country. It seemed a quixotic venture but, by attacking high taxation, waste, and corruption in the Federal government, he unseated his opponent by 7,000 votes.

In Washington he was soon involved in controversy, emerging as a strong supporter of Senator Joseph McCarthy's virulent campaign against Communists. Goldwater was one of the small number who voted against the Senate censure which led to McCarthy's downfall. He also became increasingly critical of the Eisenhower administration, opposing with increasing venom its record of deficit spending.

His disillusionment with the leadership of his own party was crystallised at the 1960 convention in Chicago. The obvious front runner as Republican presidential candidate was Eisenhower's vice president, Richard Nixon. The only contentious issues were the platform on which he would fight and whom he would pick as his running mate.

Both erupted when Nixon did a deal with Governor Nelson Rockefeller, a liberal patrician who embodied everything the party's right-wing detested most. Opposition to Nixon began to coalesce around Goldwater and there were moves to nominate him as the alternative candidate. Though they petered out, they established him as the standard bearer of the party's conservative wing. When Nixon and his liberal vice-presidential candidate Henry Cabot Lodge narrowly lost to John Kennedy, the Republican field was wide open for Goldwater.

The 1964 Republican convention in San Francisco overwhelmingly nominated him on the first ballot. But the convention had also witnessed a ferocious counter-attack by the liberal wing of the party against what it termed the "crazies". As Goldwater himself commented afterwards: "By the time the convention opened, I had been branded as a fascist, a racist, a trigger-happy warmonger, a nuclear madman, and a candidate who couldn't win" — and that was by his own party members.

He had already caused considerable alarm at home and abroad with comments about America's capacity "to fire a nuclear missile into the men's room of the Kremlin". This was now compounded by his acceptance speech, in which he told delegates that "extremism in the defence of liberty is no vice and moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue".

This was subsequently seen as the single most important factor in convincing voters he should never have his finger on the nuclear button. (No one apparently realised that it was a straight quotation from Cicero's sterling defence of republican legitimacy.)

In spite of his crushing defeat by Lyndon Johnson, who won 486 electoral votes to Goldwater's 52, Goldwater achieved a political breakthrough that no Republican had managed since the Civil War. He won outright in five southern states and took the majority of the white votes in five others. Nothing like that had been seen in the region since a Republican president decided to fight the secessionist states in 1861.

IN narrower party terms, he had sparked off a new generation of activists who, repudiating most of the things represented by the New Deal and Johnson's Great Society, began to spread the gospel of military preparedness, small government, lower taxation, and self-reliance.

Just as the election campaign had given the party a strong foothold in the previously Democrat fastnesses of the south and west, so the new radicalism pulled in disgruntled social groups who felt the Rooseveltian welfare state had been built at their expense. The Republicans changed from being the party of the privileged to the party of the put-upon — Nixon's famous silent minority.

When Nixon gained the White House in 1968 by a narrow margin over Hubert Humphrey, Goldwater was re-elected to the Senate seat he had vacated during his presidential run. That election showed voters responding more widely to the new-style Republicans. The party gained 16 seats in the Senate, 17 in the House of Representatives, and achieved more state governorships than in the previous 48 years.

During the Watergate scandal of 1973, Goldwater was one of the trusted party elders sent to tell Nixon he must go. That crisis temporarily distorted the wider picture, which showed that the post-Goldwater Republican party only lost its hold on the White House for eight years between 1968 and 1996.

And in both 1976 and 1992 it had been touch and go for the Democrats. Jimmy Carter scraped home in the aftermath of Watergate and President Clinton won by only five per cent of the popular vote, with a third party candidate taking 19 per cent of what might otherwise have been Republican ballots. Over the same period the Republicans first gained control of the Senate and then of Congress.

Goldwater, whose health had begun to deteriorate, retired from the Senate in 1987. His wife Peggy died shortly afterwards, after 52 years of marriage and four children. In 1991 he married a nurse, 30 years his junior, who had been attending him.

Though he was an instinctive rather than a cerebral politician, he homed in with great perception on Americans' widespread disillusionment with what their government had been able to deliver. His message, like that of many who came after him, was often simplistic, at times nonsensical. But he shifted his country's politics at least as much as Roosevelt had done in an earlier generation.

Harold Jackson

Barry Morris Goldwater, politician, born January 1, 1909; died May 29, 1998

Face to Faith

Sound of the spirit speaking in tongues

Martyn Percy

PENTECOST marks the coming of the Holy Spirit. A frightened group of bereft disciples are suddenly empowered by the spirit, and the Church is born. Luke, the writer of the book of Acts, begins his work by describing the spirit settling on disciples like tongues of fire. The disciples become apostles, sealed by the spirit.

The use of the word "tongues" is important, for the book of Acts provides a narrative link. From tongues of fire, we move to speaking in tongues. According to Luke, the disciples are able to stand before a vast, cosmopolitan crowd, and address each person in their own language. Suddenly, the apostles become multi-lingual in Latin and Greek and more.

Like me, you may have problems with the story, as well as the phenomenon of speaking in tongues. You are not alone. Although Pentecostalism and Revivalism claim to practise the art, speaking in tongues requires careful explication.

The account in the book of Acts need not be read literally. In the Old Testament, the story of the Tower at Shinar tells how all nations once spoke with one voice. But then people got ideas above their station and decided to build a tower to heaven to get on God's level. God, who liked his privacy and primacy, sowed dissension among the builders by inventing new languages that hampered the construction. Shinar became Babel, from which we derive the word babble. Not for the last time, an ambitious building project was scuppered through poor communication.

The account in Acts is probably an attempt to redeem this fable. The message is this. In the church — a construction of the spirit — all languages are recognised and spoken.

The spirit is universal, not local: the gospel is for all people. So, the first act of the spirit is to reverse the tragedy of Babel: God now speaks to everyone, and the church becomes a global *lingua*. The language is that of the spirit.

It is important not to take the account in Acts too literally. When early Pentecostal missionaries thought they had received the gift of tongues, they often assumed they were beginning to speak a new language that would enable them to preach the gospel all over the globe. At the end of the century, sober scholarship and reflection has drawn back from this.

On the matter of complete languages being spoken by people who have never learned them, Pentecostal scholars agree that there is no hard evidence of anyone miraculously receiving Arabic, French or Spanish directly from the spirit. Academics in the field of consciousness studies also point out that you could not confidently speak a language you had never learned. How would you know you were saying "Jesus is Lord" instead of "Haddock and chips, please"?

I don't mean to mock. The more common tradition of speaking in tongues is that which Paul describes as "sighs and sounds too deep for words". But most linguists and psychologists agree that whatever these tongues are, they do not add up to a language. It is more like an ecstatic utterance, a kind of "sound salad" full of feeling and meaning, but with no vocabulary, grammar or anything else that could enable it to be translated. It is the articulation of the unutterable.

A teacher of mine who specialised in primal religion and spoke the language of the people he studied would sometimes spend his sabbaticals visiting charismatic churches. When the time came to prophesy, he would often chip in and speak one of the languages he knew so well. Congregations were invariably impressed, and without fail his words were usually interpreted by someone "led by the spirit" — as a prophecy for the church, or a word of encouragement. But what he was actually repeating was a recipe for a type of corn porridge made with goat stock.

IN spite of these reservations, I still think there is a place for tongues. When young, I tended to dabble in the babble, and can testify to the cathartic effect of speaking in tongues. It can also be therapeutic, allowing regression to a child-like bumble: although authentic, it is not intelligible communication.

Like a conversion experience, acquiring the gift can be a rite of passage, and it still has its place in prayer and meditation. But whatever the gift is, I am clear that it is not a language. It is a different order of experience.

The phenomenon points forward to an age when words will no longer be enough to express praise of God, where a non-ordered (not disordered), composed, yet innovative sound can truly express the heart. In this sense, speaking in tongues is actually the estranged step-child of liberal theology. It connects with the romantic roots of liberalism, and puts experience back into the centre of religion, displacing dry dogma.

It can also set the soul alight, so that the tongues themselves become mystical vehicles that produce harmony, unity and creativity, as individuals melt into the warmth of the spirit and the blaze of an age to come.

Tongues of fire, flickering in the Babel of modernity, making sounds of significance in a world where mere words are losing their power.

Dr Martyn Percy is director of Lincoln Theological Institute, Sheffield University, which is hosting a conference today on Christian Fundamentalism

Letter

Karl Heath writes: The Marxism of Peter Brearey *(obituary, May 26)* was not party-line, but derived from reading Marx and Engels, something the vulgar critics of Marxism neglect to do.

It is therefore not surprising that Peter's Marxism leaned towards anarchism. The classical Marxists were totally opposed to the state. Their quarrel with the anarchists was about timing. "The withering away of the state" would occur during a transition period which Marx unwisely called "the dictatorship of the proletariat." Stalinists perverted this into the dictatorship of the party. Peter Brearey believed in the "withering away."

He was an old-fashioned rationalist and radical. He detested modern politics and despised Blairite froth, spin-doctoring and cloned MPs and betrayal of principles. I share Peter's doubts about the milk-and-water term "humanism." He and I called ourselves atheists.

A Country Diary

MACHYNLLETH: In a steeply tilted oakwood not far from here, as May turns to June, a rare orchid shyly appears. A mere half-dozen spikes are its usual annual output, with a few other plants producing leaves only, a promise for the following year.

But in good seasons, as this year, there may be a score of so of blooms. This treasure, which I have always called the sword-leaved helleborine but which now seems to be more often known as the narrow-leaved helleborine, is of great beauty when freshly opened, but is so sadly evanescent that its pure white petals are turning brown in only two or three days.

What makes the helleborine so rare I have no means of telling, but I can say that besides its normal range of between about six and 20 blooms per year it can at rare intervals produce a real outburst. One year I found it flowering abundantly on the roadside at the bottom of the wood, where it had also spilled over on to the railway bank below, a beautiful and astonishing sight I don't expect ever to see again.

It reminded me of another rarity, the Tintern splurge, in the Wye valley, a similarly shy woodlander which has sporadic outbursts of abundance, catching the eye of passing motorists by its crowds of bright yellow flowers.

I do not propose to give guidance to the location of our rare helleborine. I am fully aware that there is no shortage of vandals happy to dig up rare plants just for the hell of it, if for no other reason. Now that we have reached the unbelievable moment in our glorious history when even the common bluebell has joined the list of endangered species, what guarantee is there that some of our much rarer plants will not go the way of the lady's slipper orchid in the north of England?

WILLIAM CONDRY

Weekend Birthdays



If only Terry Waite, 59 tomorrow, had been operating in an age of religious legend, say the 17th century, when no film clips and soundbites, full of contradictions, were filed in the vaults; where only an outline of his life's actions, with few fleshy details, had survived. He makes a great figure for a woodcut illustration: giant-tall and wide, a Grenadier Guard until they discovered that his painful allergies were caused by the khaki dye of his uniform; then a sergeant-major-ish Church Army man, big at dodgy times in troubled places in Africa, amiably knowledgable around the Islamic shores of the Med (he once, while negotiating hostage release in a Libyan tent, gave Colonel Gaddafy a Christmas present of a book about Aristotle and the Arabs). His Beirut captivity seems like engravings in a devotional work: chained to that radiator, revisiting in his soul evensong in the corrugated-iron-chapel of his country childhood ("Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace") until the day his captors opened a window and he heard a bird sing. Pure John Bunyan.

Today's birthdays

Ray Cooney, actor, author, producer, 66; **Harry Enfield**, writer, actor and comedian, 37; **Andrew Farrell**, rugby league player, 23; **Christopher Haskins**, chairman, Northern Foods, 61; **Richard Hannon**, racehorse trainer, 53; **Tim Llewellyn**, director, Henry Moore Foundation, 51; **Richard Mather**, architect, 61; **Colin Myler**, editor, Sunday Mirror, 46; **Lord Richard QC**, Leader of the Lords, 66; **Bruce Roberts**, cricketer, 32; **Helen Sharman**, chemist and Britain's first astronaut, 35; **Agnès Varda**, film writer and director, 70; **Tim Waterstone**, bookseller, 59; **Phillip Whitehead**, chairman, Consumers' Association, 61; **Bob Willis**, cricketer, 49.

Tomorrow's other birthdays: **Bob Blizzard**, Labour MP, 48; **Sir John Daniel**, vice-chancellor, Open University, 56; **Judge Linda Davies**, 53; **Andrea de Cesaris**, racing driver, 39; **Ben de Lisi**, fashion designer, 43; **Clint Eastwood**, actor, 68; **Andrew Grima**, jeweller, 77; **Diane Langton**, actress, singer, 55; **David Marcou**, violinist, former chairman, the LPO, 54; **Debbie Moore**, founder, Pineapple Dance Studios, 52; **Mary O'Rourke**, deputy leader, Fianna Fáil, 61; **John Prescott MP**, deputy prime minister, 60; **Prince Rainier III of Monaco**, 75; **Brooke Shields**, actress, 33; **Peter Winterbottom**, England rugby international, 38.

Death Notices

EAGLE, Alice, of Oakley, Hants, died on 27th May 1998, aged 92. Last surviving child of George and Kate Eagle (née Stourt, of Belford, Lancs. No flowers. Donations, if wished, to St. Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke. Enquiries to Alexander & Dry; Basingstoke, 01256 844663.

LILLY, Professor Malcolm Douglas, FRS, FEng, aged 61, died at home, 18th May. Loving husband of Sheila and father of Andrew and Duncan. Funeral has taken place. Thanksgiving and Commemoration Service to be arranged.

RUSHTON, Henry Theodore RIBA, peacefully on 28th May, aged 84. Beloved husband of Stella, brother of Rene and much loved Daddy of Alan, Deborah and Angela. loved father-in-law of Brendan and Andrew, dearly loved grandpa of Adam, Benjamin, Luke, Polly, Chloe and Flora, great grandpa of Isabella. He will be greatly missed by his family and all those who knew him. Service and interment at St. Mary and St. Clement Church, Clavering, near Saffron Walden, Essex, on 6th June at 2.30pm, where Henry was the Consultant Architect for thirty years. Afterwards at The Cricketers, Clavering for refreshments. Family flowers only, but if desired, donations to The Alzheimers Society or Clavering Church Restoration Fund, c/o R. Green Funeral Directors, 66b High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1EZ, tel: 01799 513513.

WALEY, Ralph Reynolds, MBE, of Stone, Staffs, suddenly on 27th May, 1998, aged 74. Former Sales Director, Dudson Bros. Pottery Manufacturers, and International Scout Commissioner. He devoted himself to the causes of International Friendship and enjoyed the pursuit of European history and culture for more than 45 years. A loving man, loved and missed by his wife, children and grandchildren in England, Scotland and Holland.

Births

HARDESTY, On May 10th, in Portland, Oregon, to Rachel (née Cunliffe) and David, a daughter, Kitirel Ann, to the delight of her brother Rolf.

JOHNSTON Josh Paul. Christening will be held on Sunday 31st May at The Church of The Ascension in Wooleston, Warrington. Josh is the 4th son of Brian and Karen Johnston. The Godparents being Nicky Luxton, Julie and Keith Hargreaves.

Marriages

CASTIGLIONE, Anna (née Purchas) and Andrew Castiglione are delighted to announce that they were married by Rev'd Tom Purchas on 2 May, 1998 at St. Helen's Church, Wheathampstead, and thank both their families and all their friends for making it such a really lovely day.

WALLACE/REID. The engagement is announced between Richard James Reside Wallace of Meriden, Coventry and Michael John Reid of London. Marriage will take place at Clapham Common on Saturday 4th July 1998.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4129 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

KAY, the Tesco stacker, whose story was told on Page 4, G2, May 28, works in the store three evenings a week from 7 to 11 — not from 7pm to 11am.

IN OUR description of the Toyota MR2 involved in a crash, Page 4, May 28, we said it ended as "a 5ft by 10ft cube". A cube [Oxford English Dictionary] is "a solid contained by six equal squares". We also said that the driver who escaped from the wreck was taken to Queen Alexander hospital in Portsmouth. The correct name of the hospital is Queen Alexandra.

IN OUR television review, G2 Page 19, May 28, we made several erroneous references to the presenter of the BBC1 series, *The Human Body*, as Professor Robert Wilson. He is Professor Robert Winston, or Professor Lord Winston, a profile of whom appears in our Saturday section today.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

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Turmoil in Asia and Russia

Too late to re-bottle globalisation genie



Alex Brummer

THE new world order trumpeted by George Bush at the start of the 1990s — as global capitalism and the forces of democracy marched on triumphantly — is looking extremely fragile.

The emerging markets, from Indonesia to Russia, which have recently soaked up so much private capital — including $250 billion in 1996 alone — are learning the hard way that international capitalism's agenda is not always friendly to crony economics.

Japan, which in the post-war era has been held up as the model for a manufacturing economy, now shows signs of coming apart at the seams. On the subcontinent, India and Pakistan seem more concerned about displays of economic virility than attending to their people's economic well-being. The first cracks in the Hong Kong economy in more than 10 years will set off the sirens in Beijing.

None of this has seemed too bothersome to the West — with the notable exception of a nuclear mistake — because of its own prosperity.

The information age has brought to America the productivity advances and increases in output and standards of living economic gurus such as Lester Thurow and Robert Reich demanded.

In mainland Europe, now the strains of heaving budgets into the tightly-drawn corset of European monetary union are over, growth has reappeared. Britain seems to have found much of the dynamism that has been lacking in financial services, the creative industries, pharmaceuticals and software. The fall in traditional measures of unemployment have restored a feeling of well-being.

But for how long? The consequences of global capitalism are not just its fickleness but the speedier mechanisms for spreading contagion. The easy target for critics like Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir, is a trader like George Soros. But what the United States Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin, the International Monetary Fund and others do understand is that it spreads far beyond.

The very action demanded by western stock markets — that banks protect themselves from 1982 Latin American-style losses — deepens the crisis in the emerging markets as the banks act to protect their shareholders' interests.

The first cracks in the Hong Kong economy in more than 10 years will set off the sirens in Beijing

The other serious difficulty is that unfettered capitalism throws up inequalities.

While most were still glorifying in the Asian model, a World Bank report, Everyone's Miracle? Revisiting Poverty and Inequality in the East, found that although overall poverty had decreased, inequalities, along with household insecurity, had increased.

In the wake of the events since last summer, those problems have worsened, with the result that the World Bank has moved into the region to deal with the social consequences of the crisis.

Many of the dangers of globalisation as felt in the emerging markets are discussed in the just-published The Age of Insecurity, written by two City desk colleagues, Larry Elliott and Dan Atkinson. Their analysis will have a strong appeal on the left as it searches among the rubble of global-isation and cultural shifts for a way forward from the centrist world of Bill Clinton and Tony Blair. The authors have little time for the bland solutions of the Group of Seven or Eight communiqués.

In many ways, they are right. Japan and Russia, signatories to the G8 communiqué in Birmingham which called for a rebuilding of existing financial architecture rather than a radical reshaping, are themselves at the heart of the new insecurity.

Unemployment in Japan, it was reported only yesterday, is at a post-war high; car manufacturer Nissan is struggling for survival; the Japanese banking system is overwhelmed by bad debts.

Russia, the newest member of the G8, is struggling with a government of political neophytes, a civil adminstration unable to collect revenues or deliver social security, and a capitalist structure built on the wing and prayer of western investment bankers.

Even the healthier G8 members are starting to feel draughts from the emerging markets. Insecurity and globalisation has consequences even for the fittest.

Instead of changing the IMF's articles of association to give it responsibility for opening capital markets, dirigiste Elliott and Atkinson would close them down through the reintroduction of capital controls and a tax on speculative dealings.

These are not so far-fetched as proposals, but having opened up the trading system through the World Trade Organisation, Nafta and other deals, the genie cannot be put back. Better that capital markets are more rigorously supervised than that trade is closed down.

Sometimes, however, the authors' rhetoric exceeds the reality. The World Bank has made mistakes, but it is now driving the agenda for sorting out debt in Africa, social dissonance in Asia and the Russian energy sector. All relevant to the fears of global economic meltdown.

The aggressive reinforcement and modernisation of international institutions and greater co-ordination of policies is what is required. Unexciting, perhaps, but the alternative is a a millennium greeted with recession.

The Age of Insecurity, by Larry Elliott and Dan Atkinson, Verso £17.00

Second wave of crisis breaks in Hong Kong

Mark Milner in London and Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

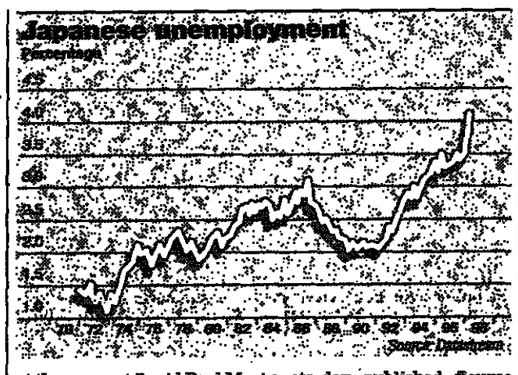
A FRESH wave of Asian contagion is threatening financial markets amid mounting evidence of the region's deepening economic crisis and political tensions sparked by the nuclear stand-off between India and Pakistan.

Figures released yesterday showed Hong Kong heading for recession and unemployment in Japan at its highest level since the second world war. South Korea is bracing itself for more labour unrest as arrests in the wake of strikes this week are being planned by prosecutors.

The Asian crisis is adding to the problems of Russia, where chaotic public finances and a looming debt crisis have sparked fears that the authorities will be forced to devalue the rouble.

In India the rupee hit a record low, and Pakistan's government suspended all foreign-exchange dealing as global concern increased over the economic consequences of nuclear instability after Pakistan's tit-for-tat testing of nuclear weapons in response to earlier Indian tests.

"The nuclear tests worry me more than anything else at the moment," said Paul McNamara, emerging markets strategist at London's Julius Baer Investments. "This could be the beginning of another wave of concern over emerging markets generally," he added.



Yesterday the Hong Kong authorities acknowledged the impact of the crisis on its normally robust economy. Output fell by 2 per cent in real terms in the year's first three months and analysts are now predicting little growth for the year as a whole.

Financial Secretary Donald Tsang said Asia's financial crisis had affected Hong Kong more and faster than anticipated by sapping confidence in the regional economies.

"The turmoil we have seen over the last six months is the most traumatic since world war two," he said.

The government was quick to announce measures aimed at steadying the property market, boosting liquidity and aiding the tourist industry. Some, however, argued it was too little, too late.

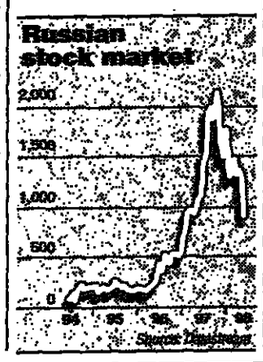
"Hong Kong, despite its appearance, is not an island in the ocean of Asia. It can't help but be damaged by what is going on and it has its own, serious economic situation yet to be addressed by the government," argued one fund manager.

The Japanese government yesterday published figures showing that unemployment had reached 4.1 per cent last month, with a record 2.9 million out of work.

The authorities admitted that the jobs market is likely to worsen. With other gloomy economic data, the figures have raised fears that the nation's lifetime employment system may be unravelling.

"The severity of the real economy, production and unemployment is increasing," admitted Koji Omi, head of the economic planning agency. News of the high jobless rate came a day after the release of poor industrial output and retail-sales figures which indicated that the economy is still slipping closer to recession. During the last two weeks big Japanese manufacturers, such as Nissan, Hitachi, Fujitsu and NEC, have also posted declines in annual profits, prompting fears of fresh layoffs in a country that prides itself on its low jobless rate.





The figures add to pressures for a rapid implementation of a planned 16 trillion yen (£70 billion) stimulus package, which is being considered by the Diet, the Japanese parliament.

However, some analysts have warned that pump-priming measures may come too late to prevent Japan from entering a deflationary spiral in which consumer demand and prices fall, pushing down profitability and driving up the jobless rate.

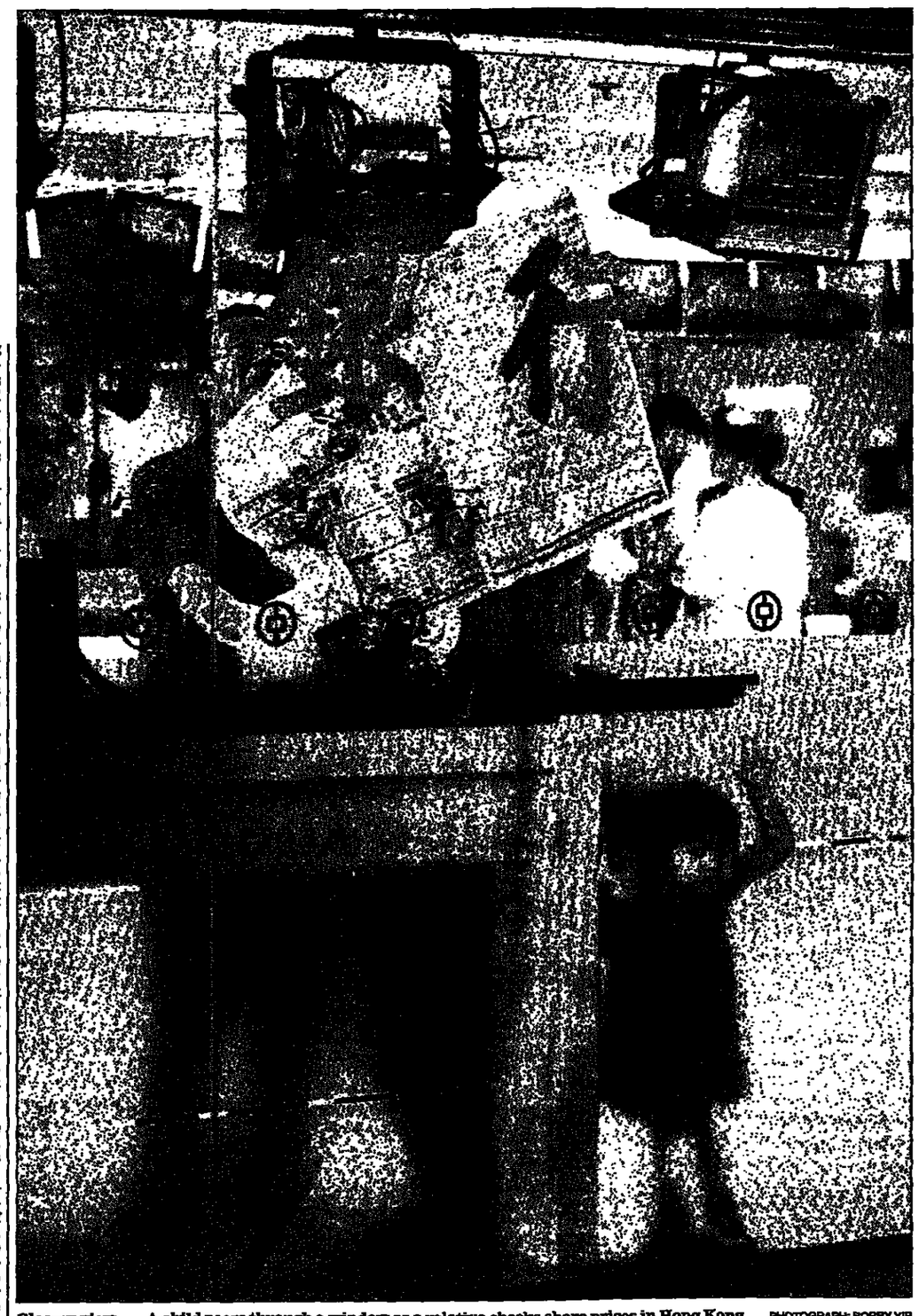
In Moscow, Russia's president, Boris Yeltsin, launched a crackdown on tax-dodgers and an accelerated programme of state-asset sale as the authorities battle to bring public finances under control.

Earlier this week, interest rates shot up to 150 per cent, and the stock market has fallen 16 per cent in the last week, including a 4 per cent fall yesterday.

To add to Russia's woes, rating agency Moody's Investors Service downgraded the country's foreign currency debt rating to non-investment grade B1, citing political instability and an increased risk of default.

On the plus side, the International Monetary Fund is preparing to release a $670 million tranche of a $9.2 billion loan package.

However, that will do little to ease Russia's troubles. "Even if the rouble survives the latest round of pressures, the country's reliance on primary exports and its dependence on foreign funding of its budget imbalance will make it highly vulnerable to external shocks for the foreseeable future," according to Laza Kekic, the director for transitional economies at the Economist Intelligence Unit.



Gloomy view . . . A child peers through a window as a relative checks share prices in Hong Kong PHOTOGRAPH: BOBBY YIP

Barings chief quits in dispute

Jill Treanor Banking Correspondent

INVESTMENT bank ING Barings was in upheaval last night when its recently installed chief executive resigned after a power struggle with the Dutch parent company. The abrupt departure of Arjun Mathrani after five months led to speculation that control of the bank was moving from London to the Continent.

Mr Mathrani, 53, who was hired amid much fanfare from Chase Manhattan last year, is the latest in a line of casualties at the turbulent bank. A further loss of senior executives from London is expected in the next few weeks.

Staff at ING Barings, formed when the Dutch bank rescued Barings after Nick Leeson's derivatives scandal, learnt of his departure in a memorandum from Marinus Minderhoud, chairman of ING Bank. "He [Mr Mathrani] has explained that he has differing perspectives to those of the ING group on certain management issues, including the organisation of our activities in Europe."

ING denied that his departure was linked to speculation about a tie-up with Credit Suisse. But it is understood that difficulties surfaced after ING management in Amsterdam decided to set up a western European investment operation to be known as ING Barings Western Europe.

The business will be run by Brussels-based Willy Douin, who joined the ING group when the Dutch bank bought Banque Bruxelles Lambert, a Belgian bank, last year.

The appointment of Mr Douin, who will be responsible for developing investment banking activity in continental Europe, is thought to have led Mr Mathrani to believe that his position was being undermined.

In his five months as chief executive, Mr Mathrani closed the London-based equity derivatives business and scaled down business in emerging markets.

Unigate walks out on Hillsdown deal

Tony May

UNIGATE unexpectedly walked away from making an agreed £1.6 billion bid for Hillsdown at the eleventh hour yesterday. Britain's second largest milk processor triggered a furious row by questioning Hillsdown's trading strength, saying: "We are unable to support their view of their prospects."

The end to the talks and the implication that trading had deteriorated at the conglomerate — which includes furniture, housebuilding, Buxted chickens, Chivers jams and Typhoo tea — sent Hillsdown's shares plunging 10.6 per cent. They fell 23p to 183p — compared with the proposed bid price of 217p.

The implication that trading was not as good as expected was especially damaging given that the chairman, Sir John Nott, reassured shareholders about the company's outlook as recently as May 8.

Hillsdown's advisers denied that there was anything wrong with the group's prospects. They said their team had been prepared to agree the deal but claimed Unigate's approach had been "shambolic" and blamed the collapse of the talks on a last-minute failure of nerve.

One adviser said it had become clear at an early stage that the Unigate board was split over the approach and that some of the major shareholders had been against the deal.

He added that if Unigate thought it could cherry-pick the Hillsdown assets when the group demerges in October, it would be forced to think again. Unigate would be last to receive the memorandum of sale, he suggested.

The view that the deal was wrong for Unigate was supported on the stock market, where the group's shares — which have fallen by 100p in the past two weeks — leapt 28p, or 4.48 per cent, to 665p.

Unigate denied its board was split over the decision.

Soros stakes £100m in property firm

THE billionaire philanthropist and feared speculator, George Soros, yesterday agreed to pump an initial £100 million into a property venture with former partner John Ritblat and son, James, writes Lisa Buckingham.

Mr Soros, best known for speculating against the pound in 1992 when the UK was forced out of the European exchange rate mechanism, is taking a substantial stake in the small property company Delancey Estates, one third owned by Mr Ritblat.

As part of the deal, Delancey will buy Freehold Portfolio Estates, a tiny property business run by James.

This is the second time in a little over five years that Mr Soros has backed Mr Ritblat senior, chairman of British Land, who is regarded as one of the shrewdest players in the UK property business.

Mr Ritblat, whose empire includes the huge Broadgate development in the City of London after he acquired Stanhope Properties three years ago, eventually bought out Mr Soros.

But that does not appear to have soured relations between the two tycoons.

Unusually for Mr Soros, the Delancey investment involves a substantial exposure to domestic property in London and the South East. That has prompted suggestions that fears of a downturn in house prices might have been overdone, as Mr Soros appears to be looking for a recession-proof home for some of the funds under his control.

News in brief

Trade deficit is widening

Britain's trade gap with the rest of the world narrowed in March but remains on a widening trend, according to official figures published yesterday.

The shortfall between exports and imports was £1.5 billion, down from £2.1 billion in February, due entirely to a reduction in the deficit with non-European Union countries. Half of the change reflected a bigger surplus on oil exports and an erratic £200 million bounce in aircraft sales.

However, the deficit on trade in goods in the three months to the end of March was £4.7 billion, the highest for almost eight years, compared with £4.2 billion in the previous quarter. Analysts said this indicated the trade deficit would continue to widen this year as the strength of the strong pound and Asia's economic crisis curtailed export growth.

Weinstock takes stock

Lord Weinstock, the former chairman of GEC, has bought a 29.9 per cent stake in Mallett, the fine-furniture auctioneer in Bond Street, London. The 4.13 million shares, bought from the Harrods stores group, would have cost about £4.2 million on the open market. The stake was said to be a long-term investment.

Viagra rival rises

Shares of Icos, a biotechnology company less than 10 years old, rose as much as 51 per cent on enthusiasm about its impotence drug, which may have fewer side-effects than Pfizer's Viagra pill. In frantic trading, shares in the company hit a record high, valuing the company at almost $1 billion.

Icos, which has Microsoft chairman Bill Gates and other business luminaries on its board, does not have any drugs on the market and its impotence pill is in the second of three phases of testing needed for regulatory approval. — *Bloomberg*

Longhurst's new chair

Andrew Longhurst — who walked away with a £2 million options gain four years after Cheltenham & Gloucester, the building society he used to lead, was acquired by Lloyds TSB — will become chairman of United Assurance next week.

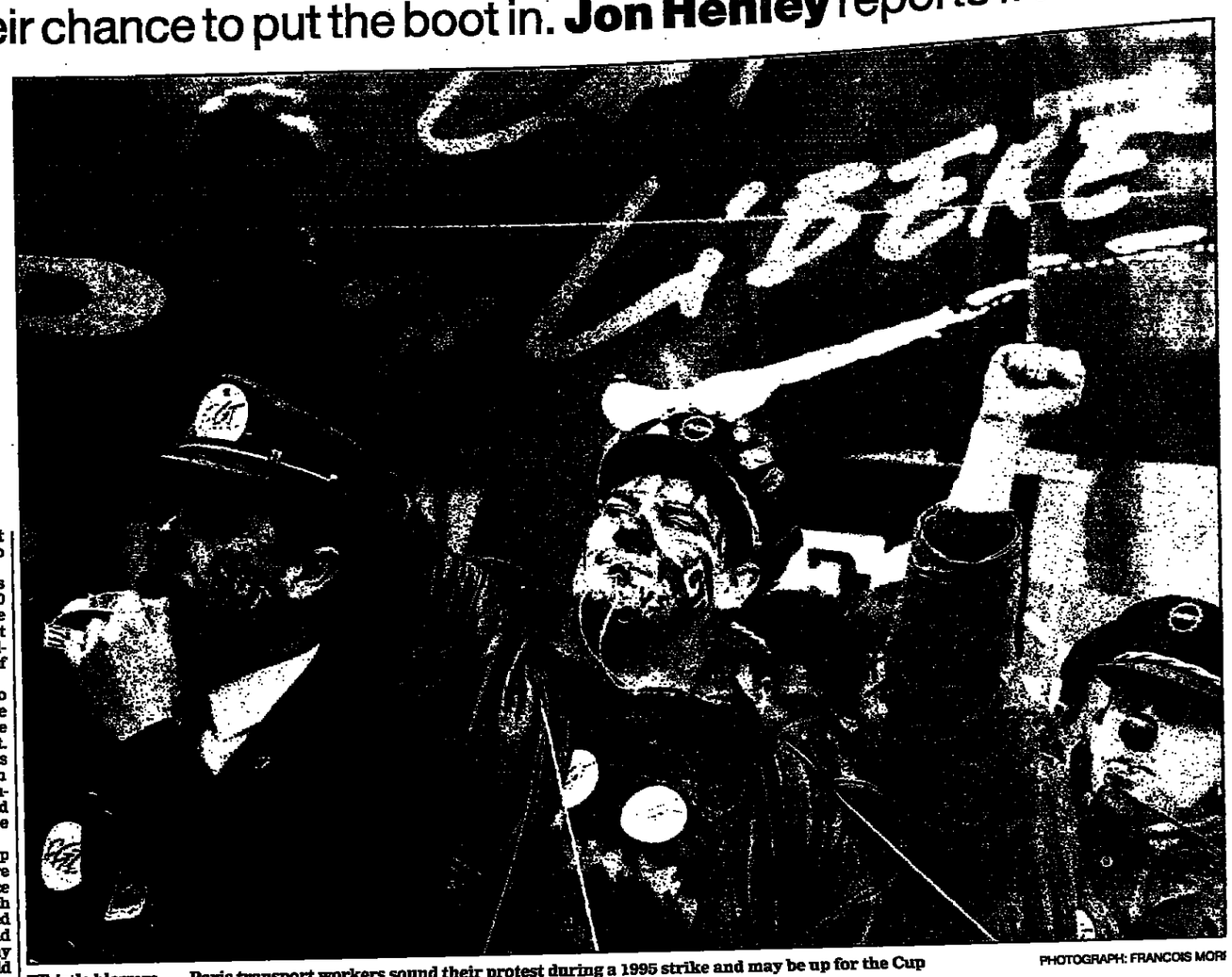
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Guardian



Asia's new wave of woe plunges world economy into deeper crisis
Page 11

The World Cup gives the unions their chance to put the boot in. **Jon Henley** reports from Paris

French strike at open goal



Whistle blowers . . . Paris transport workers sound their protest during a 1995 strike and may be up for the Cup PHOTOGRAPH: FRANCOIS MORI

THERE may already be a winner in this year's World Cup — France's trade unions. Queueing up to turn the biggest football festival yet into a French farce of equally large proportions, they already have the Socialist-led government over a barrel.

Ten days from kick-off, airline pilots, ground staff, cabin crews, train drivers, conductors, builders, department store workers and even police are threatening to spoil the party. If they all go ahead, the havoc could be horrendous.

Two out of three trains could be cancelled. Nine out of 10 internal and short-haul flights may be grounded. Vast tailbacks could clog the country's roads as hundreds of thousands of ticketholders moving between the 10 host cities join French commuters taking to their cars to beat the rail strike.

Take the four days between June 22 and June 26, towards the end of the first round. During that period, thousands of England supporters could be stuck in Toulouse, in the far south-west, trying to get to Lens, 600 miles north, to watch Glenn Hoddle's men play Cameroon.

The German fans could be stranded in Lens trying to get to Montpellier, the Dutch may be in Marseilles with tickets for a game in Saint-Etienne, and the Brazilians in Nantes with a 700-mile journey ahead of them to Marseilles.

In towns and villages around the country, tired, angry rival fans could be assembling in front of the huge open-air screens which many municipalities are erecting, drowning their sorrows in cheap red wine on a hot summer afternoon. It would not take much for the trouble to start — and the police, if their union is to be believed, may be working to rule.

It is unlikely, of course, to come to that. The French government, usually reluctant to intervene in labour disputes, will not risk allowing derailment of the biggest, most prestigious and most widely watched sporting event the country has hosted.

Pressure will be brought to bear on the state-owned railway company, SNCF, and airline, Air France, and deals will be done. But the unions know it.

"No French trade unionist worth his salt was ever likely to pass up such a heaven-sent occasion as a World Cup without at least considering the idea of exploiting it," said Hervé Jaubert, a labour relations analyst at the University of Lille. "It's clear to all that the leverage possibilities it presents are enormous."

The 10-venue format of the tournament means fans with tickets for more than one match will have to travel considerable distances, making it particularly vulnerable to transport disruption.

Publicity for any action is almost guaranteed: 12,000 journalists are covering the competition, which is forecast to draw a cumulative worldwide television audience of 37 trillion.

For a government keen to show that France works, the stakes are equally high. The eyes of the world will be on it. The government has ploughed Fr9.4 billion (£1 billion) into France '98, including Fr4.2 billion to build the 80,000-seat Stade de France outside Paris.

For some, the World Cup may be too big a target to dare take on. Truckers from Force Ouvrière indicated as much this week when they lifted some 17 roadblocks around the country after a one-day stoppage, and said they would not be imposing them again before September.

Although wage talks between unions and haulage firms had broken down, the truckers' leader, Roger Poletti, said: "Obviously, blockading cities during the Cup would not be very well received by the public. We know we would lose a lot of the backing we have."

Mr Poletti was concerned, too, that a concerted campaign by truckers could provoke a violent response. Police last week fired at the tyres of funfair operators who had mounted roadblocks around Paris in protest at a town hall decision to move them to the suburbs.

"The reaction to the funfair protest was a strong and solemn warning," Mr Poletti said. "I got the very definite message that not everything would be tolerated."

Such thoughts do not seem to be troubling other unions. The main Air France pilots' union, SNPL, is "absolutely determined" to call a strike from June 1 until three days after kick-off day, and continue it as long as necessary.

The airline has said already it will cancel between 75 and 90 per cent of short- and long-haul flights over the first four days of next week, when several smaller unions have called sympathy strikes.

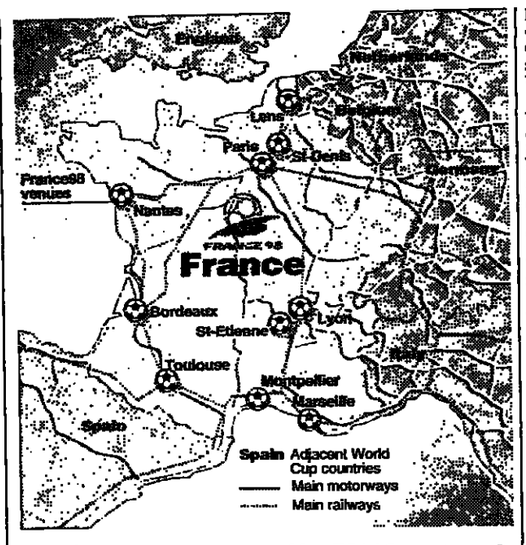
"Let's stop wasting time and prepare for action," the union leader, Jean-Charles Corbet, said after the breakdown of talks with management on Friday.

The pilots want the carrier, which this week announced a profit after years of heavy losses, to scrap plans to cut pilots' salaries and introduce a two-tier pay scale that cuts wages for new pilots.

Air France insists it has to shave Fr500 million from its annual wage bill in the run-up to a partial flotation later this year. It has offered pilots shares in exchange for a 15 per cent pay cut, which they say is unacceptable.

Further clouding the World Cup skies, the Sud Aerien union, which represents ground crew workers at Orly airport, where most French domestic flights originate, this week urged all airport staff to walk off the job for an indefinite period from yesterday.

As the official World Cup airline, Air France has said it will at least ensure that planes chartered for the 32 participating teams arrive on time for their matches — but a pilots' strike would wreak havoc with fans' travel plans.



A train strike could do even more harm. SNCF has touted itself as the ideal solution to fans' travel needs, laying on an extra 135 trains and selling some 200,000 tickets to tour groups plus an unknown number to individuals.

A large independent rail union, FGAAC, this week gave formal notice of a 24-hour strike to be called depot by depot any time from June 10 — the day Scotland are due to play Brazil in the tournament's opening match.

The FGAAC wants early talks on an increase in wages, the hiring of "several thousand" new workers and the introduction of a 35-hour working week, and is already getting support: the militant Sud-Rail trade union on Tuesday called on its SNCF members to stop work indefinitely from June 7.

The Communist-led CGT is also making threatening noises. It has announced nationwide protests by railway, energy, construction and department store workers on June 4, and this week urged employers to settle any outstanding disputes before the World Cup starts.

"All must, of course, be done to make the World Cup a success, but if labour conflicts are justified then I'm very much afraid there will be conflicts," said Gilbert Stoquert, head of the CGT's transport branch.

Even the police have jumped on the bandwagon. About 100 off-duty patrolmen invaded the offices of the World Cup organising committee this week, demanding bonuses for the extra work the tournament will involve. While French police are banned by law from striking, they are allowed to demonstrate as long as they are off duty and out of uniform.

The government is beginning to show the strain. "The whole world will be looking at France," the transport minister, Jean-Claude Gayssot, told Air France pilots on Wednesday. "Let's not do anything to spoil the festival of football, let's not do anything to harm the image of France and of its businesses."

Mr Gayssot has dissociated himself from Air France management, saying cost-cutting must not be solely at the expense of pilots' salaries and that the twin-tier salary scale could be scrapped.

There is still plenty of room for manoeuvre but Mr Gayssot and his colleagues face a busy couple of weeks.

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Those golden goals

☐ **AMERICAN baseball players wiped out the 1994 World Series with their strike. Although bitterness among the fans about the players' greed still lingers, baseball players are now probably the highest paid sportsmen in the world.**

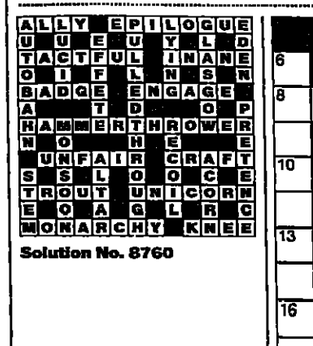
☐ *TELEVISION technicians at the BBC know that what Auntie most fears is blank screens during Wimbledon and the Test matches. So when have they threatened industrial action this year?*

☐ **AUSTRALIAN unions are already gearing up for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. They know how important this event is for the prestige of New South Wales at the beginning of the millennium.**

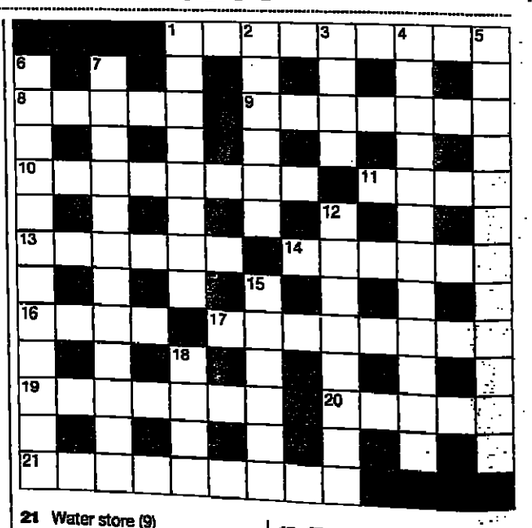
☐ *DURING wartime, governments find themselves at their most needy and susceptible. Hundreds of thousands of miners and other British workers struck during both world wars, spurred on in 1917 by the Russian Revolution.*

☐ **AND finally. . . What summer would be complete without at least one set of air traffic controllers or baggage handlers — often Spanish — threatening to ruin everybody's holidays with an impromptu stoppage?**

Quick Crossword No. 8761



Solution No. 8760



Across

1 Monopoly, for instance (5,4)
8 Bury (5)
9 Three notes in time of two (music) (7)
10 Figure with seven angles (5)
11 Make indistinct (4)
13 Unmarried (6)
14 Unit of poetry (6)
16 Resound (4)
17 American Indian soft shoe (8)
19 (of prices) Keep to existing levels (3,4)
20 First premier of Soviet Union (5)
21 Water store (9)

Down

1 Shellfish adhering to ships (8)
2 Fighting — lawsuit (6)
3 Platform (4)
4 Times past, remembered with nostalgia (4,4,4)
5 Amusing — hostess is doing it (12)
6 One easily woken (5,7)
7 Get a move on (4,2,3,3)
12 Problem — an insistent person (8)
15 Island in the western Pacific (6)
18 Tie up — a Moroccan (4)

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Walter Benjamin's 'biographer' Parini and an obsession with sex **18**

saturday
The Guardian

May 30 1998



Minnie and Mickey, key players in the game-plan, at Disney-MGM Studios, Florida PHOTOGRAPH BY KAREN KUEHN/KATZ



Carl Hiaasen is America's funniest novelist and Disney World's greatest detractor. Here he defines how Team Rodent has gnawed at Florida's heart

Mouse trap

One company has changed the face of an entire state, Florida, where I live. Three decades after it began bulldozing the cow pastures and draining the marshes of rural Orlando, Disney stands as by far the most powerful private entity in Florida; it goes where it wants, does what it wants, gets what it wants. It's our exalted mother teat, and you can hear the sucking from Tallahassee all the way to Key West.

The worst damage isn't from the Walt Disney World Resort itself (which is undeniably clean, well-operated and relatively safe) or even from the tourists (although an annual stampede of 40 million Griswolds cannot help but cut an untidy swath).

The absolute worst thing Disney did was to change how people in Florida thought about money; nobody had ever dreamed there could be so much. Bankers, lawyers, real-estate salesmen, hoteliers, restaurateurs, farmers, citrus growers — everyone in Mickey's orb had to drastically recalibrate the concepts of growth, prosperity, and what was possible. Suddenly there were no limits. Merely by showing up, Disney had dignified blind greed in a state pioneered by undignified greedheads.

Everything the company touched turned to gold, so everyone in Florida craved to touch or be touched by Disney. The gates opened, and in galloped fresh hordes.

As Orlando exploded, business leaders (and therefore politicians) throughout the rest of Florida watched and plotted with envy. Everyone conspired for a cut of the Disney action, meaning overflow. The trick was to catch the tourists after they departed the Magic Kingdom: induce them to rent a car and drive someplace else and spend what was left of their vacation money.

This mad obsession for sloppy seconds has paid off big-time. By 2000, the number of tourists visiting the Orlando area is expected to reach 46 million annually. That's more than the combined populations of California and Pennsylvania storming into Florida every year, an onslaught few places on earth could withstand. Many Disney pilgrims do make time to search for auxiliary amusement in other parts of the state. High on the list is the southernmost chain of islands known as the Keys, where I live, and where only one road runs the length of the archipelago. Maybe you can appreciate my concern.

Disney's mission in Florida is to establish a sovereign state within a state, a private entertainment mecca to which every working family in America would be lured at least once and preferably several times. And that's exactly what has come to pass.

Disney World is the most visited vacation destination on the planet: kids who went there in the 1970s are bringing their own kids today, perpetuating a brilliantly conceived cycle of acculturation. Every youngster who loves a Disney theme park — and almost all of them do — represents a potential lifetime consumer of all things Disney. With this strategy, Disney will someday tap into the fortunes of every person on the planet, as it now does to every American whether we know it or not. The implicit message is that America's values ought to reflect those of the Walt Disney Company and not the other way round.

In the mid-1960s, rural land holders in central Florida began receiving inquiries from prospective buyers. The offers were fair, though not high enough to attract suspicion. Even at $200 an acre, most owners were happy to sell. The transactions seemed routine, and it was a while before folks realized what was happening.

By then, roughly 24,000 acres had been acquired in methodical quilt-patch purchases by Walt Disney Productions. Realising that the price of land would have shot up if his involvement were known, Walt Disney had kept his role a strictly guarded secret. The pay-off was an incredible real-estate coup that would eventually transform 43 square miles of pastures, woods, and swamps into the world's most popular tourist destination.

Walt died [in 1966] five years before Disney World opened, but its future was secure. That's because Florida's legislators blitheringly agreed to give the company virtually whatever it wanted, and the main thing it wanted was autonomy: a private government for constructing and managing an amusement park. Thus was born the Reedy Creek Improvement District, an innocuous-sounding title that belies unheard-of powers. "The Vatican with mouse ears," says Richard Foglesong, a Rollins College professor and long-time Disney watcher.

Reedy Creek takes in all the land purchased by Walt's secret agents in the 1960s. The district is "governed" by a supervisory board elected by the landowners, meaning the Walt Disney Company. Its borders contain two shell municipalities, Lake Buena Vista and Bay Lake, which have combined a permanent population of fewer than 50 souls, mostly company executives and their families. Everybody in Orlando knows that Reedy Creek is Disney and Disney is Reedy Creek, although, for legal reasons both claim to be separate. That's because Florida requires municipal governments to conduct their business in public, and, for competitive reasons, Team Rodent would rather not.

Never before or since has such outlandish dominion been given to a private corporation. Disney runs its own utilities. It administers its own planning and zoning. It composes its own building codes and employs its own inspectors. It maintains its own fire department. It even has the authority to levy taxes.

Florida's starstruck lawmakers didn't stop there. They also gave Disney's puppet government the authority to build its own international airport and even a nuclear power plant — neither of which the company has needed... yet. Reedy Creek is further empowered to have cemeteries, schools, a police department, and criminal justice system services that Disney has so far chosen not to assume.

Reedy Creek does, however, "contract" with Disney for an 800-member security force that patrols company property. These "hosts" and "hostesses" wear blue uniforms and badges, just like real cops — though legally they're not.

Two friends of mine, Charlie and Cheryl Freeman, once took their son and daughter to Church Night at Disney World. They went on a bus with 17 other children and several parents.

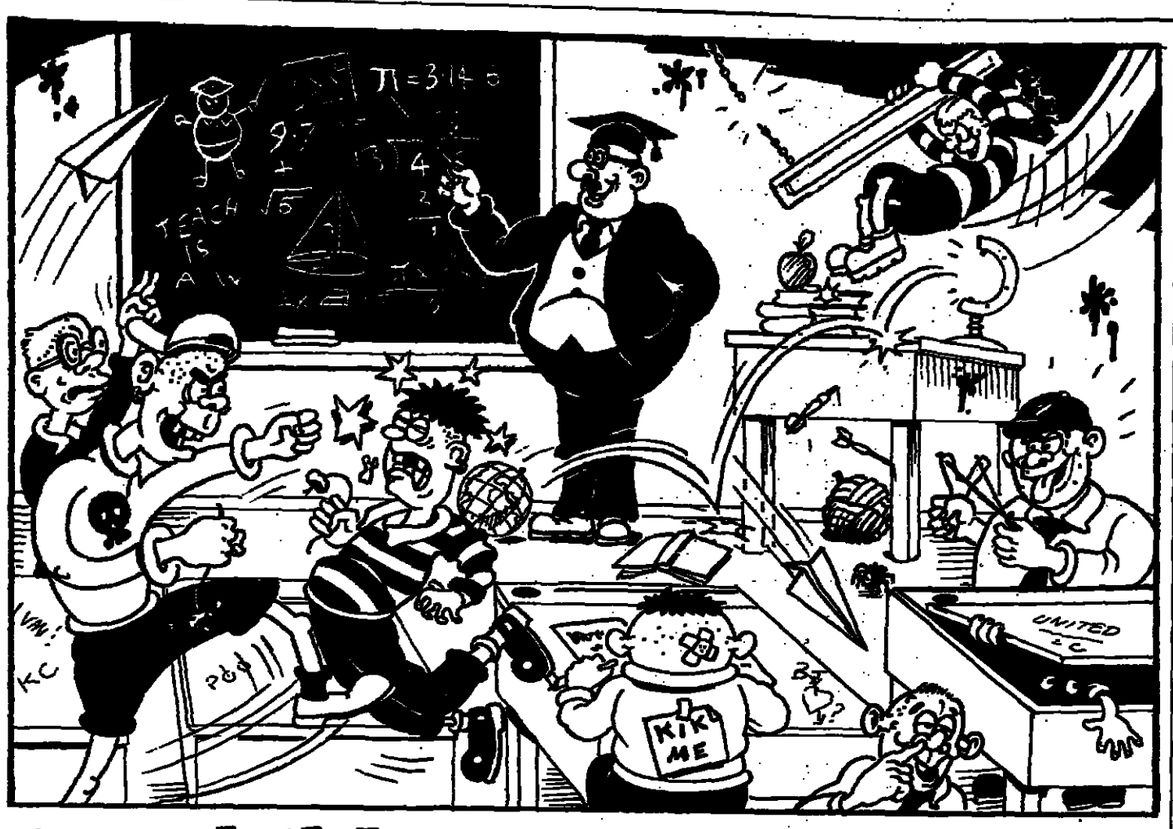
Outside Tomorrowland, the Freemans had a run-in with another group of youngsters on an escalator. The kids were swearing loudly. When Charlie asked them to stop, one of them swung a leg and caught Cheryl in the page 14 ▸

"What is the next number in the following series?
4, 2, 3, 4, 6, 2, 3, 9, ..."

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A possible answer is that the numbers replace the number of letters in each word of the question, so...



Are children under too much exam stress?

Yes



Rachel Bulford
GCSE student

Dear Estelle,
As young people sit their GCSE and A level examinations, many feel these weeks will affect their lives forever. With the introduction of modules and coursework, pupils have worked intensively throughout the year to obtain the grades they want.

Continuous assessment has its place. It does take the pressure off final examinations. However, adults have failed to recognise that this new style of working also places new stresses on young people.

Fear, insecurity, lack of confidence and a sense of dissatisfaction are common. It is no surprise that two million children have a mental health problem, that rates of depression more than double as children reach their teens, or that the Mental Health Foundation believes these rates are rising.

It is not just teenagers who suffer greater stress. I have noticed how younger members of Children's Express now worry about Standard Assessment Tests (SATs). Children as young as seven are under pressure to obtain good grades. Schools add to this burden as they compete in league tables. Curtis Anderson, 16, a fellow editor at this news agency, remarks, "You've got to do well to keep your school at the top."

When the examination results finally arrive on doormats around the country in August, the annual cries of "Well, it was harder in my day!" will ring out in the press. Last year, when more people achieved A to C grades than ever before, they were not congratulated but undermined by this response.

Whether they are at the top or the bottom of the class, young people need pressure to succeed. They also need support.

Yours,
Rachel Bulford.
Trainee, Children's Express News Agency

Dear Rachel,
I sympathise with you and thousands of young people who feel under pressure as they prepare to take their GCSEs. I know from my own experience as a teacher in an inner-city comprehensive just how hard young people have to work to pass their exams. And in many ways life is now harder for teenagers than when I sat my O and A levels in the seventies.

I am glad you think continuous assessment has its place. I agree it has its own pressures but it does encourage pupils to work steadily rather than only for a make-or-break exam. Most GCSEs and A levels are a mixture of both and I think that is right.

Becoming a teenager can be difficult but it is also a very exciting time in young people's lives. I do not think you can just put depression down to exams. Taking exams is also all about recognising achievement and improvement and that is good for self-esteem and confidence. Thousands pass every year. It is important to gain qualifications in an economy that is far more dependent on a highly skilled work force than ever before.

Good exam grades can open so many doors. If people do not get their qualifications at first there is always another chance through retaking them or through lifelong learning. Young people do need support, and many teachers and families do give it.

Yours,
Estelle Morris

Dear Estelle,
We are agreed that continuous assessment is a plus. However, there are deeper issues than whether it takes the pressure off final examinations.

One truant I interviewed earlier this month said: "Truanting isn't something I do for fun. Often we get lots of essays at the same time. The only way to get them all done to a high enough standard is to take an extra day. My friends do the same." There is a need for departments to work together so they don't overload you and for schools to ensure deadlines do not pile up.

The last thing teenagers want is to continue with lifelong learning. There is now a large gap between unskilled and skilled labour, and young people feel that if you are to jump that gap, you need to get it right first time.

I agree that many young people do pass examinations and have greater opportunities to retake individual modules to boost grades. But the introduction of starred A grades means ever-higher levels to achieve. Retaking can heighten the pressure because it means extra preparation as well as starting on a new part of the syllabus and continuing with other subjects.

My colleague, Juanita Rosenior, 14, comments: "Pupils have additional pressures because they have to start now to plan their futures. I know that when I'm 18 there will be few grants for further education, regardless of my ability."

I feel that, although you tackled the broader issues of young people and stress at school, your response demonstrated the lack of adult understanding, particularly given your involvement with contemporary education.

Yours,
Rachel

No



Estelle Morris
Schools minister

Dear Estelle,
It concerns me that, as Schools Minister, you find it difficult to comprehend the repercussions of stress. A recent study demonstrated that the things children and young people worry about most in their lives are school and exams. I hope you and your civil servants will take this on board in future policy-making.

On a more positive note, I think there is a lot of scope for improvement. Friends at university make clear that the support they receive would also be useful for school pupils. Having a helpline staffed by young people is one idea. Another would be the opportunity to talk about stress with a personal tutor or teacher. Though, as my colleague Lizzie Kenyon, 14, points out, "Teachers need more time to listen to pupils' worries."

Educational pressures and stress are increasingly important for pupils, parents and teachers. My colleagues and I feel the Government would only have to take small steps to make a big difference. If it were to acknowledge the stress young people are under today, it could have a huge impact.

Yours,
Rachel

Dear Rachel,
I would not deny that young people worry about exams or that they can be stressful. Some students are affected more than others and there are people who panic in exams. My argument is that exams are important and that some pressure is inevitable, although young people do need support.

I was interested that you thought schools could learn from universities by improving counselling and support facilities. You have some good ideas that could be looked at by schools. Pastoral support is important and I think that it has sometimes been undervalued. Teachers should be available to listen to their pupils' concerns about stress. The Government is cutting the burden of red tape partly so that teachers can spend more time with pupils. We are also reviewing the way that personal, social and health education works to see if it could become more helpful in supporting students with the kinds of issues that you have raised.

I know you are sitting your GCSEs at present. I do wish you and everyone else the best of luck. I hope you enjoy celebrating your results in August.

Yours,
Estelle

Smallweed



Much vituperative comment, all justified, has been directed against the latest Blafia* tactic to stamp on back-bench dissent. The crucial question, though, has scarcely been asked. If local Labour parties have become so subservient that they're willing to succumb to leadership threats to good honest radicals like Alan Simpson, what's the point of having a Labour Party anyway? As Smallweed pointed out in the early days of the Blafia, what all this is really about is replacing the Labour Party by a wholly different device, which might be called the Progressives. When they elected T Blair, the rank and file thought they were choosing a leader. In fact they were choosing a liquidator who has opened a brand new business on the old site. Which is why I called some months ago for the foundation of a wholly new party, moored to the teachings of such as Lord Hattersley and the editor of the Observer, which I christened the Hatto-Huttos. Where is it?

The Telegraph yesterday ran an interview with the BBC radio presenter James Naughtie by Petronella Wyatt, daughter of Woodrow. (deceased), deputy editor of the Spectator and that newspaper's It Girl. It took the form of Wyatt asking Naughtie sillier and sillier questions until he lost patience with her, mainly because she described him as dour. The crucial question went, as usual, unasked. It was: "Tell me, Jim: what on earth can have possessed you to give an interview to someone like me?" If the answer was, as it usually is in these cases: "I was told by my publisher/producer/sponsor to do it, as a plug for my brand-new programme/film/novel/chat-show/attempt on Mount Everest," then the next question is: was it worth it? In this case, I doubt it.

The other unanswered question is how Petsy pronounced the word "dour." Glenda Jackson the other day was regretting she'd never been sure how to say it. Smallweed used to have the same difficulty, until he coined a mnemonic, which anyone is welcome to use free of charge, based on the play Othello, by William Shakespeare. It is this:

The hour/ Was sour,/ The Moor/ Was dour.

Articles in the Sun under the name Tony Blair commending the Japanese were actually written, we're told, by Alastair Campbell. The piece had warm words for an earlier "ground-breaking" article in the Sun by the Japanese Premier Ryu Hashimoto, to whom Blampbell referred as "Ryu". But I recall it being said at the time that Ryu's own piece was written by Campbell. If so, we have a new kind of art form in which the protagonist dances a *pas de deux* with himself.

I can't help reflecting that the history of international relations might have been very different, and possibly very much healthier, had this principle been adopted several centuries earlier. For allies, certainly: and even perhaps between potential opponents. How much bloodshed might have been averted at Hastings, for instance, had some 11th century Campbell been writing the script for both Harold and William? Or if one hand had devised the exchanges between Henry V and the Dauphin, or Elizabeth and Philip of Spain? Or even Hitler and Neville Chamberlain. They'd soon have been on Neville and Adolf terms then. Or even Nev and Dolfy.

There has been a further outbreak of cusps, a metaphorical fallback whose increasing prevalence Smallweed condemned a few months ago. On Sunday, for example, the Observer reported that the sculptor Antony Gormley wants to make a symbolic earthwork "somewhere on the cusp in Central Europe", and elsewhere that Britain was on the cusp of the single most important financial event of the Blair administration. A stock market analyst in the Telegraph declared himself keen to consider venture capital opportunities on the cusp of breakthrough, while a piece about the author of Valley Of The Dolls in the Independent surmised that we were now "on the cusp of what can only be described as a Jackie Susann renaissance". What is more...

A stakeholder and proud of it (Daventry) writes: Where is the promised denouement of your story about the demi-mondaine?

Smallweed smartly ripostes: On the cusp of delivery.

The story so far: In an elegant 17th-century ruin not two miles out of Heckmondwike, a shameless demi-mondaine was intertwining herself in the fronds of a huge aspidistra. "Pray desist, my beloved, I beg of you!", pleaded her beau, Archie Kelk, in the abject tones of a supplicant mendicant. "You are masking my rapturous view of your lovely...

To continue "... you are masking my view of your lovely local distillery, Godbolds, noted for finest *gins since* 1916. Try Godbolds today! You will never regret it!" (advt).

A pedant writes: You mean you have kept us on tenterhooks all this time for a mere advertisement?

Smallweed replies in terms of blameless modernity: You must learn to move with the times, old son. We live in an age of entrepreneurship. By now this column ought to be sponsored.

*Blafia: an elision of Blair Mafia. (© Smallweed Disgusting Neologisms 1998)

The Readers' Editor on... the Guardian Culture Shop

Selling under review

Ian Mayes
Open door



SELECTED book reviews appear in the Guardian with a discreet note at the end saying, for example, "If you would like to order Bitch (free p&p), call the Guardian Culture Shop on 0500 600102." This has prompted the following from a reader in Bristol: "When at the end of a review I find a special offer for the book in question I no longer trust the independence of the review. I assume that the newspaper (Guardian or Observer) has an interest in promoting sales of the book and that this interest will accompany, if not precede, the decision to review the book in the first place.

"A favourable review is all the more suspect. My reaction is to ignore both review and book. Newspaper reviews are important guides to my reading and I wonder if I am the only reader who would greatly prefer straightforward reviews without promotions."

The reader sees a thematic connection with the subject of my column last week, the declaration of interests. What I was suggesting was that the failure to declare a relevant interest tended to compromise the writer's best efforts. This reader is suggesting that the introduction of a commercial note is, in another way, equally compromising and that the integrity of the review to which it is attached is harmed.

Most of his assumptions are, in fact, false but perhaps the fault is partly ours for not explaining fully and clearly enough how the Culture Shop works. The Guardian does have a commercial interest in the sale by this system of books reviewed on the books pages, extracted in the Guardian Weekend magazine or G2, or mentioned elsewhere in the paper. It takes a small percentage of the value of such sales, which at the present level amounts to a sum of little significance.

The decision to flag the service — because in this case that is what we consider it primarily to be — is entirely that of the editor in question. The literary editor of the Guardian is an enthusiast for the system. He believes that, having roused a reader's interest through a stimulating review, it is then doing no more than the decent thing to provide the reader immediately with a simple way of obtaining the book, if possible at a reduced price. He also values the indicator of reader interest provided by the weekly sales reports he receives.

The literary editor never decides in advance which titles will be flagged in this way. The reviewer is therefore never told that an offer to readers may be attached to his or her review. The books on which offers are to be made are chosen by the literary editor and his deputy and no one else. They are never selected by the independent company which operates this service for the Guardian. They are chosen as late as possible on the basis of positive reviews which have already been received. The literary editor puts his selection to the company, which is called BVCD (books, videos, CDs), and it will then determine the precise terms of the offer that can be made.

No reviewer has ever complained about the system. I rang one, who is also a student of the publishing industry, and he was all for it, pointing out that it is now practised by some of the leading literary journals. He felt that one of the functions of the reviewer was to equip the reader to decide whether or not to buy the book. If the review strongly encouraged the reader to buy it then why not facilitate that?

The Culture Shop (and Observer Interactive) is an activity of the Guardian's enterprise division which is dedicated to the idea of a mutually beneficial interaction with readers through the offer of goods and services: books, holidays, clothes (in the course of development) and other things. Practically all newspapers now have an interest, you might say a competitive interest, in this area which is capable of huge development through the use of the Internet.

BVCD is a small company — a fulfilment house in the jargon — of about 20 people, with its offices in Acton in west London. No part of it is owned by the Guardian. It operates the Guardian's Culture Shop and provides a similar service to other papers and magazines. This year, up to the middle of this month, it had sold more than 16,500 books through the Guardian alone, with John Pilger's Hidden Agendas leading with 2,645 copies. The head of the Guardian's enterprise division calculates the combined annual sales through the Guardian and Observer as roughly equivalent to a medium-sized bookshop.

The Guardian — one only needs to read the histories of the paper — is dedicated to the separation and independence of its editorial and commercial activities. Not to co-operate in areas where there are benefits for the paper and the reader, with no threat to editorial integrity, would be folly. I would be interested to hear other views.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Mouse trap

page 13 ribs. Charlie thought it was an accident until the kid got in his face and said, "What's your problem, you fucking geek!"

That's when Charlie "grabbed him by the breastbone and pushed him back." Moments later he found himself in the custody of Disney security guards. The kid said Charlie had tried to choke him. Charlie denied it. "I was wrong to touch him", he said, "but he kicked my wife". And there were witnesses.

It didn't matter. The guards took Charlie to a small room, where he was interviewed and photographed with a Polaroid camera. Then he was escorted out the front gate and informed he was banned from Disney World for 12 months. His picture would be posted, the guards warned, and he would be arrested for trespassing if he was spotted anywhere at the park.

Charlie was so angry that he phoned the newspaper. Columnist Robert Blade wrote about the incident in the Florida Times-Union. Readers mailed protests to Disney. Charlie then received a letter from the company's chief of security: "This is to notify you that, effective immediately, the trespass warning against you for Walt Disney World Resort Complex has been lifted."

Goofy's gendarmes still do an impressive job of keeping order, though. Every now and then, reality intrudes — a shoplifter, a flasher, a fistfight between tourists. Such incidents are handled with astounding swiftness and discretion, the scene usually cleared and back to normal within minutes. Team Rodent's crisis squads appear ready for every emergency.

Well, maybe not every emergency. Recently a potentially breathtaking drama has unfolded within stalking distance of Adventureland. A full-grown African lioness escaped from a non-Disney roadside zoo called JungleLand, on State Road 192. It's one of Florida's all-time unsightliest thoroughfares, crammed with T-shirt shops, fast-food joints, cut-rate rental lots and bargain motels. The road looks like this for one reason: It's on the way to Disney World.



Goodbye to all that ... Nala, the escaped lioness — recaptured and tranquillised — on her way back to JungleLand
PHOTOGRAPH: ED SACKETT

The escaped cat is called Nala, named (predictably) after a lioness character in Disney's animated blockbuster The Lion King. The real-life Nala vanished into a stretch of heavy woods off 192, not far from an International House of Pancakes. Teams of armed searchers and wildlife officers tried to track the animal, while journalists from all over the world clustered in safety along the shoulder of the highway.

Much of the news coverage dealt with speculation that the big cat was making her way toward Disney property. Sweet Jesus, just imagine: the hot-blooded 450lb namesake of a Disney cartoon lion, bounding down Main Street USA and, with one lightning swipe of a paw, taking down Goofy or Pluto, or maybe one of those frigging chipmunks. A harrowing primal eruption — and Disney could blame no one but itself!

Because Nala wouldn't have been loose in Orlando if there were no JungleLand, and there would be no JungleLand if there was no Walt Disney World.

Yet, aren't the folks at Disney mostly good and decent and hard-working? And don't they honour in spades their pledge to bring fun and happiness to kids of all ages? Sure they do. Being dutiful parents, my wife and I made several pilgrimages to Walt Disney World when our son was small, and he always seemed to have a blast. How could such a mirth-giving enterprise be regarded as evil?

Maybe the reason why it is so scary is that to do what Team Rodent does, and do it on such a scale, requires a degree of order that doesn't exist in the natural world. Not all birds sing sweetly. Not all lakes are blue. Not all islands have sandy beaches.

But they can be fixed, and that is Disney's fiendish speciality. Nothing in the real world cannot be copied and refined in the name of entertainment, and no place is safe.

The point is, you can spend a solid month at Disney World and never see evidence of the real Florida, save for the occasional renegade buzzard on a roadkill. The Magic Kingdom might as well be in Tucson or Nashville or Tacoma; it wouldn't matter. Once inside the gates, the experience would be virtually identical. A sublime and unbreakable artificiality. People might like it, but it's not natural.

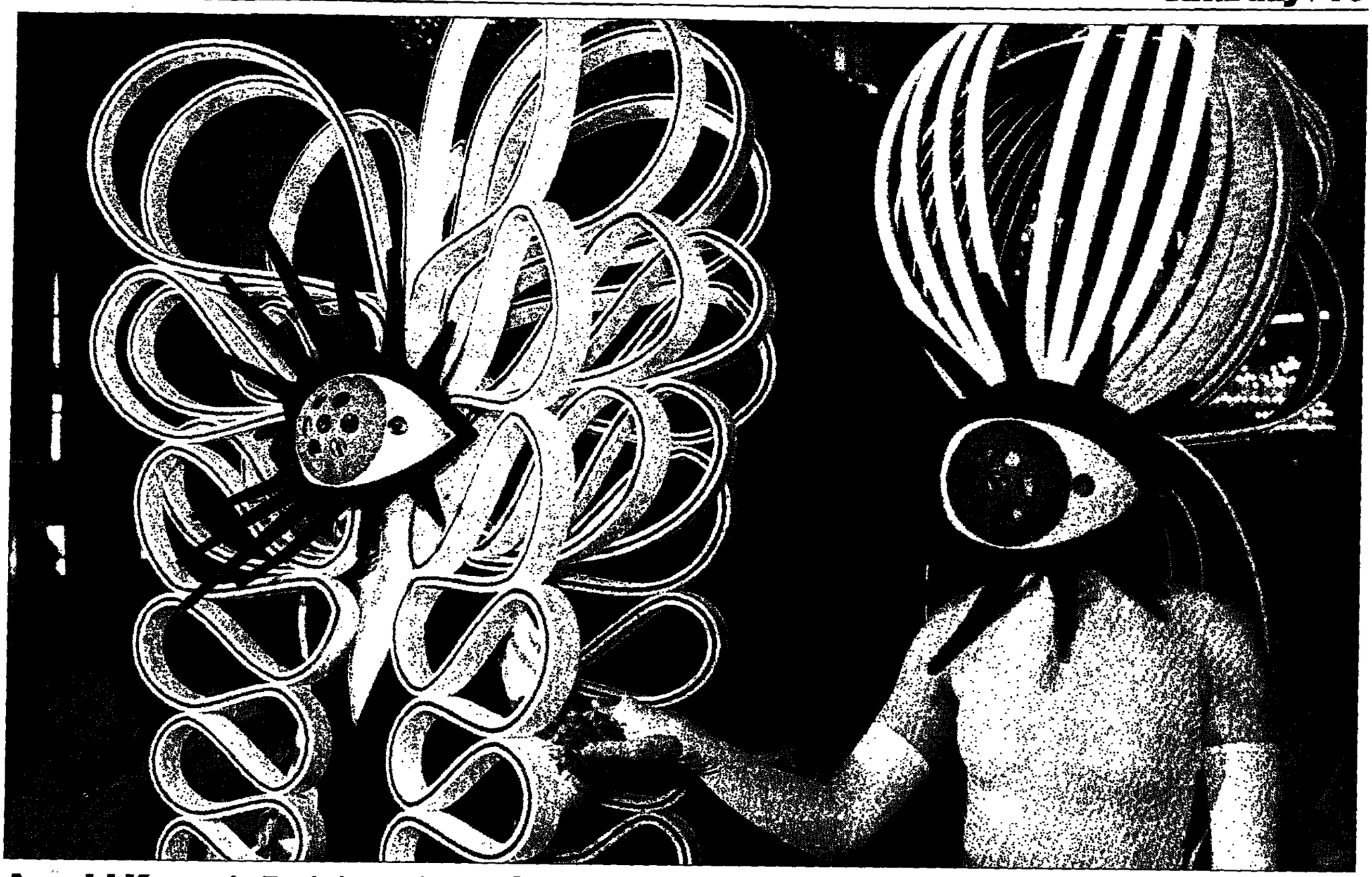
Which brings us back to Nala, the lioness. For three glorious days, she eluded searchers who tracked her by foot, 4-by-4, and helicopter. Satellite trucks lined State Road 192 and concerned-looking news correspondents beamed updates to points around the globe. The drama escalated hour by hour, experts warning that the cat would soon be growing hungry ...

Now, in my lifetime I've seen many tourists so poorly behaved they deserved to be eaten alive by *something*. But nothing so brutally ironic unfolded. Nala the lost lioness never made it to Walt Disney. Game wardens found her sulking beneath a palmetto bush, barely 150 yards from JungleLand. They zapped her with a tranquilizer dart and hauled her back to the cage. The international press corps packed up and departed, as did the police, wildlife officers, and highway patrol.

And life goes on as before at the plastic fantastic Reedy Creek Improvement District. All is safe. All is secure.

© Carl Hiaasen. This is an extract from Team Rodent, published this month in America by The Library of Contemporary Thought, a division of Random House.

هكذا من الاصل



Arnold Kemp in Paris investigates the new French resistance, dedicated to fighting World Cup fever

Ooh ah, pas comme ça

The baker on the corner is bewildered by my inquiry. The patron of the little bar opposite is also puzzled. For him a far more pressing question is whether he can exact payment for the lunch just consumed by an old man licking his lips and fumbling in his pocket for change.

The Committee for the Boycott of the World Cup — or Cobof for short — operates from an apartment just up the road, here in the 20th arrondissement of Paris, but there is no answer at 7 Villa Stendhal when I ring the bell and no one in the district seems to have heard of it.

An hour later, across the city in the suburb of Ivry, a jovial young advertising man, Laurent Terrisse, comes bouncing down from his office to tell me of another initiative, an association he and colleagues have set up called La Coupe est Pleine. "Please don't publish our phone number, or the name of my advertising agency," he pleads. His boss, a football fan, would not be too pleased.

The groups are hardly setting France on fire but they represent the two strands of opposition to the World Cup. The first, intellectual and analytical, denounces it as a capitalist ramp, an opiate of the people which diverts them from political and social evils. The second is non-political, but fears that the tournament, like the legendary upas tree, will poison everything around it.

La Coupe est Pleine exists to help "pariahs" in a world gone football crazy. "We are not against the World Cup," says Terrisse. "We are humorous and non-polemical. We are ephemeral and will be wound up after the cup is over."

The group, he says, has more than 600 members round France, two-thirds of them men, who have paid a subscription of 50 francs. It has negotiated special deals with theatres, cinemas, restaurants, dance halls. All will be sanctuaries from TV football. Alsace, he says, has declared itself a football-free zone for the duration and is offering special tourist packages. "We may even," says Terrisse, "save a few relationships".

More likely is the possibility that some couples will fall out as the matches dominate their domestic and social lives for a month. And the last straw for some stressed partnerships may well be T-shirts aimed at football-hating females, sidelined by their menfolk. They bear the slogan "I'm free tonight, there's football on the telly".

There's a strain of subversion, provocation even, in other manifestations of the anti-lobby. Posters with the slogan "Exploit an idiot: rent a room to a football fan" have appeared in several host cities. In Montpellier, the hostile feeling has hardened into a protest about public funds being used to promote the World Cup.

Another of the anti-groups, No Foot, has got a web site and a wheeze which could knock a bit of stuffing out of the proceedings: they've taken the World Cup mascot, a cocky cartoon rooster named Footix and shown him impaled on a spit. Several hundred people have contacted the group via the net.

It is all, I suspect, a little more commercial than some of the protest organisers let on. The French tourist trade is worried that the cup will turn off the main flow of visitors on which it depends. This was the anxiety that lay behind French tourist minister Marie-George Buffet's recent call, much reviled in the London tabloids, for British fans, even those without tickets, to come and "join the party".

Terrisse gives me one of the window-stickers for participating establishments. The image is of a football scored out by a diagonal red line — a red card for the game itself. "Espace sans foot," it says.

On my subsequent wanderings through Paris, I see little sign of it. Virgin Megastore, it is true, is organising a series of "no football" concerts by artists from the competing countries but is trying to have it both ways by flogging football videos too. The Theatre Sylvia Montfort is from June 8 putting on a play called Red Card, satirising the sport and its players.

All these activities strike me as marginal. The intellectuals may pronounce, the impresarios may produce. But most people are less than engaged. France is much less enthusiastic about the game than the Brits, the Germans, the Italians or the Spanish. And the use of football to assert national identity — for example, by the Scots — seems to them absurd and even undignified.

"The reasons are partly historical," says the sociologist Patrick Mignon, "because of the way the game was introduced from England in the late 19th century. There it was the game of the industrial proletariat and became the national game. Here it is just one of a number of sports." It follows, therefore, that "so far French supporters haven't got really involved with the national team. French fans are much more involved in their local clubs."

Mignon, author of La Passion du Football, argues that unlike the British or the Germans they don't support their country win or lose, in good times and bad. They rejected an attempt by the French FA to set up a national supporters' club, which they regarded as artificial. "Their support is conditional. The national team has to be strong and stylish. There's a kind of pride behind this, an idea that to be French you have to be very, very good." Attendances in France, though they have perked up this year, are still well behind those in England, Germany and Italy, with the exceptions of Lens and Marseille. "People in France like football," said Mignon. "But the idea of promoting the big club in the big city is something which is a little bit alien to the tradition."

The general public, he thinks, are mostly indifferent to the anti-football campaigns. But there is a long intellectual tradition of hostility to the game at its highest levels. It has been seen either as a substitute for war or part of the capitalist machine.

The French sociologist Jean-Marie Brohm has called sport "a prison of measured time" and has written of the exploitation, by capitalism and the bureaucratic state, of the "man-machine". Brohm is an adherent of the so-called Frankfurt School, which denounces the alienation caused by mass consumerism, in pop music as in football.

Cobof's manifesto makes similar points. At a time of grave economic and social crisis and of growing inequality, it says, France has spent 10 billion francs (£1 billion) on a new national stadium. When the position of its immigrants has never been more precarious, France, the "cradle of human rights and a traditional country of asylum," is welcoming teams from military dictatorships, police states and other "non-democracies" where human rights are flouted.

It adds: "Political fervour and the political consensus round football cannot hide the mafia influences around it, the drugs, the weekly violence inside and outside the stadiums, the victims of football disasters, and the constant police surveillance. Must this festival become a vast police conference?"

Would you follow this?... masks for the opening ceremony
PHOTOGRAPH: ANAÏS NICOLE BRUNEL

But intellectuals are also coming forward to champion the game. Some of their pronouncements seem windy, not to say pretentious. Patrice Delbourg and Benoît Heimermann who have brought out a literary anthology for the World Cup, Football & Literature, say: "The goal is football's orgasm. And the nations of all the world are its putative lover."

Such sentiments might alarm women. But not, apparently, here in France. One of the opposing groups, "Y'a pas que le foot!" (Football isn't everything), was formed by three women but has only 30 members. It says it is neither feminist nor against football. It is simply a club which organises outings on the days when big games are on television.

And, according to a poll in France Soir, most French women are not seriously bothered anyway. A majority were not interested in football at all and 88 per cent thought it would be unlikely to create more problems over the choice of TV programmes in their homes. Three conclusions seem possible: that they are submissive, that they are dominant or that, like many women, they suspend their dislike of soccer for the duration, seduced by the pageant and the allure of male athleticism.

An unworthy thought, but possible evidence to support the last of these conclusions is an event promoted by a Paris theatre, the Elysée-Montmartre. It's a sort of Chippendales Anti-World Cup strip show. A spokesman was quoted as saying a few days ago that most of the bookings so far had come from men wanting to make up to their wives for an anticipated overdose of the twin pleasures of booze and soccer in the coming weeks.

Read the latest European news without using a phrasebo

Guardi

And remember, a godchild isn't just for Christmas

A baby-naming ceremony is no substitute for a christening, says **Matthew Fort**

Can you have a godparent if you don't have a God? The Baby Naming Society is the latest brainchild of sociologist Michael Young who feels that, with church baptisms in decline, there should be a secular ceremony for this important rite of passage. It's a point of view but given a choice between a christening and a baby-naming ceremony, I know which I'd opt for.

It isn't a matter of religion. It's a matter of ritual, the sense of wider community that going to church to get your name engenders. The formula the BNS has come up with — "We promise to try to love and to be patient with our baby, neither demanding too little nor expecting too much. We will try to offer unconditional love regardless of her/his success or failure" — seems a typical limp fudge, and accepts implicitly that parents are bound to fail in these duties.

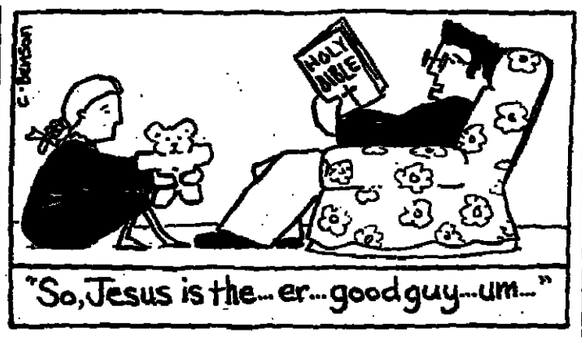
Say what you like about the state of the Anglican church, it still knows where it stands on the matter of giving babies their names. It has that robust and unequivocal declaration on renouncing the Devil and his works, and a similar acceptance of a whole raft of responsibilities on behalf of the innocent mite.

Of course there are those for whom such words are completely meaningless. God — who he? Go to any christening and you're bound to see a couple of godparents, and probably parents as well, stumbling through the responses, without the vaguest idea of what they're letting themselves in for.

Of course it would be better all round if the aisles were packed with committed folk who knew their catechism, creed, communion and christening duties backwards, but we know this isn't the case. However, the bosom of the Church is broad and you never know if or when folk may see the light. So if it's all right with you, it's all right with us, seems to be the pragmatic position.

No, it's always the non-believers who get all of a twitter about muttering some words they can't see the point of as if, somehow, they'll be giving offence to the God they don't believe in. This position reminds me of the response Kingsley Amis made when asked whether or not he believed in God. He said he couldn't possibly respond, "because you never know who's listening".

More worrying, however, is the effect any major shift in the baby-naming business would have on godparents. Speaking as someone who has more than his fair share of godchildren — and every one a source of joy — I have devoted a good deal of time to the role and responsibilities of the godparent. In theory, I undertake to give the parents a hand in the moral guidance of Jamie, Kate, Nell, Ed, Marietta, James and Oliver.



Frankly, guidance in the Christian sense is superfluous where godchildren are concerned. There are few more godless creatures than godchildren. In a broader sense, moral guidance of the kind, "Yes, I will take you to see Spice-world: The Movie", or, as they get older, "Yes, you are old enough to drink a Martini", and later still, "Listen, it's probably not the right time to tell your mum and dad that; why, yes, of course they love you, and I'm sure they'll come round in the long run..." tends to be more appreciated.

However, the greatest duty of the godparent is to give presents, as regularly as your pocket allows. In the present stakes, we stand only below parents and grandparents. Birthdays and Christmas are obvious occasions, but there are severe problems with these.

Give a child a present at Christmas and, in all likelihood, it will be one among dozens and hence ignored. Certainly it will be lost, or broken by the time you next see them, thus gaining you no advantage in their affections. I have found birthdays even more problematical because I can never keep the dates in my head, or my diary come to that. And, having suffered from the same insult myself, I know that there is nothing more pathetic than a smart propelling-pencil arriving a week late with a note of faint apology.

So, after a good deal of trial and error, I came up with a solution to the primary godparent responsibility problem. I select a totally arbitrary date in the course of the year and sit down and write to each of my godchildren in turn, enclosing a modest sum of money and strict instructions not to write to thank me for this kindness. All they have to do is drop me a line at any time of their choosing to tell me what they've been up to.

Imagine the delight when, out of the blue, you get a letter containing money to which you don't have to respond. They may think you're as mad as a hatter, but they'll remember who you are, hopefully with affection.

Of course, there should come a time when godparental responsibilities should cease. In theory, for Christians this happens officially with confirmation. You can wash your hands of them at that point, although the relationship can be more enduring. My own beloved godmother, Pamela, was still forking out for me in her nineties, but I can't really see this appealing to everybody.

As far as I can make out, the Baby-Naming Society doesn't seem to have thought about this. Get caught up in a baby-naming ceremony, and you're stuck for life. It's enough to turn anyone religious on the spot.

books

Fiction? Travel? History? Or all of these? His own publishers cannot quite classify W G Sebald's latest book. **James Wood** on a master of the strange and sublime

A death artist writes



'There is something of the Gothic about Sebald's writing' . . . the beach at Covehithe, near Southwold, Suffolk PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN McCABE

The Rings of Saturn
by W G Sebald
translated by Michael Hulse
296pp, Harvill, £15.99hbk, £12pbk

Anxious, daring, extreme, muted — only an annulling wash of contradictory adjectives can approach the agitated density of W G Sebald's writing. More simply, this German who has lived in England for over 30 years is one of the most exciting, and most mysteriously sublime, of contemporary European writers. When his book *The Emigrants* appeared two years ago, one immediately thought of Walter Benjamin's remark that all great works found a new genre or dissolve an old one. At last, a contemporary writer had discovered a way to stretch the novel-form beyond its frame, to harass realism into a state of self-examination.

Yet Sebald's adventurousness was also grounded in the actual. Indeed, it says much for Sebald's profound literary tact that *The Emigrants* made moving and real a dilemma that is usually an abstraction: the question of what is real and what is invented. In *The Emigrants* Sebald told the stories of four men, each of whom had been menaced by 20th-century history. All four were the victims of slightly different kinds of upheaval or catastrophe: two were casualties of Nazism, and two of exile, and all, like 19th-century fictional characters, had had their lives eaten at by sadness, by a kind of internal wasting sickness which Sebald superbly evoked. All of these characters actually existed, yet *The Emigrants* reads like fiction — and is fiction — because of the care and patterning of Sebald's narration, because of its anguished interiority, and because Sebald so mixes established fact with unstable invention that the two categories copulate and produce a kind of truth which lies just beyond verification: that is, fictional truth.

But on its own, this would not be daring — would not even be new. What is extraordinary about both *The Emigrants* and *The Rings of Saturn* is the scrupulous uncertainty with which Sebald invests his narratives. In both books, for instance, uncaptioned photographs are included, most of which relate to a place or incident in the text, but some of which do not. It seems likely that Sebald borrowed this idea from Stendhal's autobiography, *The Life of Henry Brulard*, throughout which Stendhal litters his own, often unreliable drawings. Similarly, in both of Sebald's books, the narrator is proximate to Sebald, but not identical with him. In *The Rings of Saturn*, for instance, the narrator tramps around Norfolk and Suffolk, with a hat and rucksack, more like Beckett's Molloy than the man called Sebald. Like a Beckett character, he often produces an alienated, disembodied comedy: "Whenever I am in Southwold, the Sailors' Reading Room is by far my favourite haunt."

If one passage can suggest the frail beauties, the dreamy suggestiveness, and the deep playfulness of Sebald's work, it might be a passage from *The Emigrants*, in which Sebald is walking with his Uncle Kasimir, on the beach in New Jersey. "I often come out here, said Uncle Kasimir, it makes me feel that I am a long way away, though I never quite know from where. Then he took a camera out of his large-check jacket and took this picture, a print of which he sent me two years later, probably when he had finally shot the whole film, together with his pocket watch."

Under this paragraph, Sebald prints a photograph of a man who looks a little like the author, standing on a beach. But the photograph is so murky that it is impossible to tell. We are encouraged to look at the photograph, which then turns us away from itself, converting the passage, very movingly, into a meditation on visibility. The literary care, in just a few sentences, is immense: the detail about how it took Uncle Kasimir *two years* to shoot the rest of the film suggests a life without photographs, a life without much sense of its own visibility. And the detail of the pocket watch, like a skull in a Renaissance painting, suggests both Time controlled and lost.

In both books, Sebald's language is an extraordinary, almost antiquarian edifice, full of the daintiest lustres. He is helped in this by the poet Michael Hulse, who renders Sebald's German into English. Sebald, who is a Professor of German at UEA, then powerfully treads his own English into Hulse's, sometimes rewriting entire passages. One of the oddest effects of this prose is a quality of melodrama and extremism running alongside a soft, dreamy mutedness.

Sebald's melodramatic side, one suspects, comes from the mid-19th-century German tale, such as was written by Adalbert Stifter. Often, in *The Rings of Saturn*, Sebald's narrator finds himself on a desolate heath, or caught in a storm, like the narrator of Stifter's tale "Limestone". There is certainly a quality of the Gothic about Sebald, written up in his dementedly patient locutions: "I stuck to the sandy path until to my astonishment, not to say horror, I found myself back again at the same tangled thicket from which I had emerged about an hour before . . ." Indeed, for all the quietness of Sebald's prose, exaggeration is its principle, an exaggeration he has undoubtedly learned in part from Thomas Bernhard. Sebald's pessimism is Bernhard-like, too; as the narrator puts it here: "In reality of course, whenever one is imagining a bright future, the next disaster is just around the corner."

In fact, rather than other books, it is a film that most resembles Sebald's lovely combination of opacity and wildness: Werner Herzog's great Caspar Hauser, to which Sebald silently alludes in *The Emigrants* (his work is saturated in reference). Like Caspar Hanser, the narrator of *The Rings of Saturn* dreams of the desert, and is something of a brilliant child, wandering around a landscape both real and imagined, at a finely bemused angle to all knowledge. As he tramps through East Anglia, he communicates with the dead, and ponders the strangest information, with which he is insanely profligate — the decline of herring catches, the destruction of elms in England, the habits of the silkworm.

He is especially attracted to the elegiac, to all that is dwindling and passing. At Somerleyton Hall, he sees nothing but grasses and weeds where once was a thriving estate. "It takes just one awful second, I often think, and an entire epoch passes." It is just the same at Sudbourne Hall. At Dunwich, on the coast, Sebald tells us that one of the most important ports in Europe during the Middle Ages now lies underwater: "All of it has gone under, quite literally, and is now below the sea . . ."

Sebald tells the stories of eccentrics and fantasists, many of whom resemble the first subject of *The Emigrants*, Dr Henry Selwyn, who lived in a stone folly in his garden. We encounter the memory of Edward Fitzgerald, the translator of the Rubaiyat, who retired at an early age to a "tiny two-roomed cottage on the perimeter of the estate, and there he spent the next fifteen years", living on vegetables. Swinburne, the poet, is also of interest to this unhappy narrator, for Swinburne, like Fitzgerald, essentially retreated from life, and lived quietly in Putney. He reminded a visitor, writes Sebald, of a silkworm; and it is entirely characteristic of Sebald's writing that this last fact might be invented, and that the "visitor" might be Sebald himself.

The true subject of *The Rings of Saturn* is death. In the first section of the book, Sebald writes about Sir Thomas Browne's *Urn-Burial*, which is about the complicated artifacts that human beings surround themselves with in death. The country houses which Sebald describes are like the Pyramids and pagan graves that Browne described: they are mausolea. But Sebald is always deeply self-examining, and he feels the need to include his own book among these mausolea. The artist is like the silkworm, suggests Sebald, killing himself as he produces his fine thread of silk. In this sense, we are all artists, or death-artists: in a plane from Amsterdam to Norwich, the narrator looks down and notes, "it is as if there were no people, only the things they have made and in which they are hiding". (Sebald is hiding in this book, of course.)

Elegy, in England, is easy to buy, especially of the country-house kind. But what distinguishes Sebald from most English elegists is the deep unease of his elegy — its metaphysical, Germanic insistence. Sebald does not just see a political decline; he sees a decline of which we are not just the inheritors but the creators, too. This, I think, is because he believes in a kind of eternal recurrence. He does not say exactly this; but his book suggests that in every historical moment, we have already been here. Standing in a camera obscura on the fields of Waterloo, he remarks that history is always falsely seen: "We, the survivors, see everything from above, see everything at once . . ." But how can we be the "survivors" of Waterloo? Only if we were actually there.

Typically opaque, Sebald proceeds in shuffled sentences, never underlining anything. But I take him to be suggesting that we are always the survivors of a history that we attended in a previous incarnation. This might explain why so many of Sebald's characters feel like Mrs Ashbury and her daughters, an eccentric Anglo-Irish family who have escaped from life, and about whom Sebald writes that they "lived under their roof like refugees who have come through dreadful ordeals and do not now dare to settle in the place where they have ended up". Mrs Ashbury tells the narrator: "it seems to me sometimes that we never got used to being on this earth and life is just one great, ongoing, incomprehensible blunder". That sentence might stand as both statement and emblem for this great, strange and moving work.

If you would like to order a hardback copy of *The Rings of Saturn* at the discount price of £13.99 (free p&p), call the Guardian Culture Shop on 0500 600102.

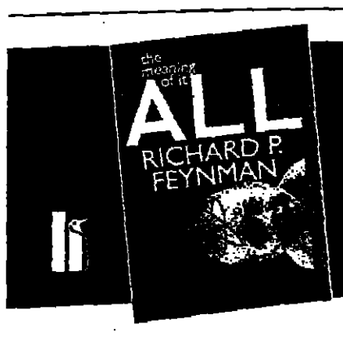
House-Clearing

by Alan Jenkins

Her clothes are going into big black plastic sacks
which I tie up, for charity; she no longer needs them,
they are things that have not fitted her for years.
And this Life of Cary Grant, these paperbacks
I bought her — *The Penguin Book of Cats*, *Too Deep For Tears* —
they must go as well, she no longer reads them
and I'd say, judging from the dust they've gathered,
hasn't done in years; nor, though she blah'd and blathered
with the neighbours endlessly about my books,
has she opened *those* since — when? since she was moved to tears
by how *unhappy* all my poems made me sound? —
For here they are, as dusty as the others, and as useless.
And when did she last refer to *Married Love in Later Years*? —
Towards the end they slept in single beds, and looks,
hard looks, were all that passed between them, drowned
in scotch and disappointment. Now she's toothless

and the legs that, as a girl, she was famous for
have started to give her hell, and she must leave her house
which we both call home, as in "Are you coming home
for Christmas?", and I can't believe her house
holds so much of her: her clothes in cupboards: in her drawer
a sheaf of letters, handwritten, tied with ribbon, and a poem
cut from Patience Strong: on her dressing-table, lavender-water,
scented handkerchiefs, heirlooms of an only daughter.
Who dreamt that I would be here, wrapping up her life,
her fifty years in this one place as daughter, mother, wife,
wrapping up the precious china and cut glass
for sale by auction, tying up loose ends?
That I would find these notes from relatives and friends,
fusty, black-edged, "With deepest sympathy",
these snaps that show her, a cut above, in her convent-class,
then the woman of the house, house-proud, holding me?

House-proud! The Hoover sucks up a carpet of dust
from the carpet, her sheets and pillow-slips are streaked
and a smell of stale pee hangs about in the hall.
The sideboards and the dinner-service and the toby-jugs, all
that they inherited, accumulated, held in trust
for her relatives "overseas", everything that shrieked
quiet desperation at me, wrongness — the home she built:
It must go, and she must go. What's left is guilt.

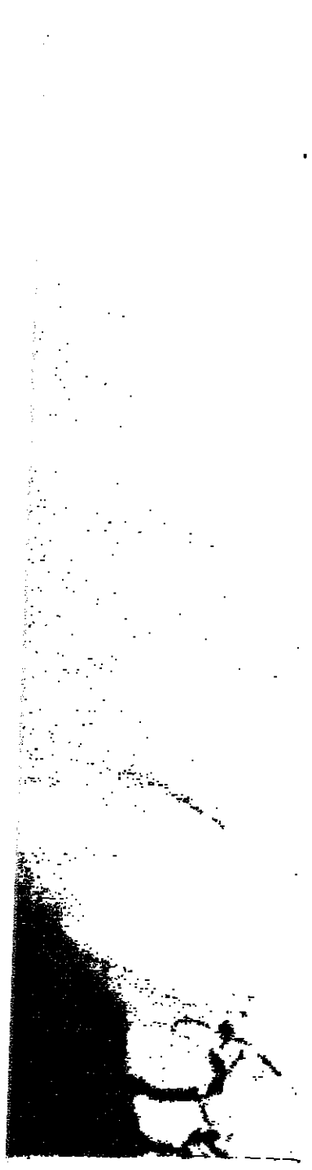


The Meaning Of It All The new bestseller by
Richard Feynman
'A neat summary of Feynman's philosophy of science, and it makes a pretty good philosophy of life as well' John Gribbin, *The Sunday Times*
Allen Lane Penguin Press £9.99 www.penguin.co.uk/science

صكذا من الاهل

Richard Williams kicks around some of the football books rushed out for the World Cup

The beautiful game dissected



From the window of a feminist bookshop in Charing Cross Road, a T-shirt broadcasts the summer's message: "The stronger women are, the more men love football." In neighbouring bookshops, the shelves are stacked with volumes hoping to catch the sales momentum released by Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch* in time for the World Cup.

Biographies abound, from the bland — Alan Shearer's **My Story So Far** (Hodder and Stoughton, £16.99) to the absorbing — Joe Lovejoy's **Bestie** (Macmillan, £16.99). Other writers investigate the game's booming infrastructure — **Fifa and the Contest for World Football**, by John Sugden and Alan Tomlinson (Polity Press, £13.95) and **The Football Business**, by David Conn (Mainstream, £14.99). More interesting, as the game's temperature rises and the tabloids bang the drum for the national team, is the proliferation of books by authors of a more romantic and literary persuasion, whose work, prefigured by Ian Hamilton's *Gazza Italia* and Simon Kuper's *Football Against the Enemy*, reflects a change in the nature of football appreciation in Britain.

Eduardo Galeano is a novelist. He is also Uruguayan, which entitles him to call himself a supporter of a team that won four world championships — two World Cups, in 1930 (the first ever) and 1950, preceded by the Olympic tournaments of 1924 and 1928, which were of equivalent standing. As many world titles as Brazil, in other words, yet achieved by a nation of three million people. Yet the Uruguayans have won nothing since beating Brazil in the 1950 final, in front of the largest crowd ever assembled to watch football, and failed even to qualify for this year's edition of the tournament.

"Uruguayan football is a far cry from what it used to be," Galeano writes in **Football in Sun and Shadow** (Fourth Estate, £6.99), a series of wry, poetic meditations on the game. "Fewer children play it and even fewer men play it gracefully. Nevertheless, there is no Uruguayan who does not consider himself a PhD in tactics and strategy, and a scholar of its history. Uruguayans' passion for football comes from those days long ago, and its deep roots are still visible. Every time the national team plays, no matter against whom, the country holds its breath. Politicians, singers and street vendors shut their mouths, lovers suspend their caresses, and flies stop flying."

For generations, the declaration of an interest in Uruguayan football would have provoked derision and incomprehension in Britain. No longer. A decade of intensive exposure to the influence of foreign mercenaries, from Cantona and Juninho to the squadrons of Frenchmen and Italians at Arsenal and Chelsea, has broadened the average English fan's horizons, encouraging an interest in the game's exotic aspects. So Galeano's book, full of charmingly discursive thoughts on fans and administrators as well as players, will find an audience.

It is punctuated by word-sketches of individual goals that happened to catch his fancy. One of these was notched against England, in the 1970 World Cup in Guadalajara, scored by the winger Jairzinho at the end of a move featuring half the Brazilian team and climaxing in what basketball players call a no-look pass by Pelé. It was, in my view, the greatest goal ever scored — better even than Maradona's famous second goal against England in 1986, because it was a product of unselfish teamwork as well as individual genius, and because it broke the deadlock and decided the outcome of a match in which art and industry found a perfect balance.

Garry Jenkins is so fond of Jairzinho's goal that he describes it not once but several times during the course of **The Beautiful Team** (Simon & Schuster, £15.99), like one of those film directors who shows you a scene from several points of view. Adapting his title from Pelé's celebrated phrase, Jenkins tracks down several of the great man's colleagues in the 1970 Brazil team, which played football with an unequalled blend of technical skill and joyful spontaneity.

There are some marvellous stories, like the description of the semi-final against Uruguay, when the Brazilians, still smarting from defeat in the final 20 years earlier, became convinced that the game



One, six, it's all the same to me ... Maradona takes on some nervous Belgians PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE POWELL

was jinxed, and were revived only by a tearful halftime address from their manager, Mario Zagallo. Those who fear for the physical wellbeing of Paul Gascoigne in France this summer might also care to note that Brazil's playmaker, the great Gérson, was a three-packs-a-day man who instructed the coaching staff to have a cigarette lit ready for him in the dressing room at half-time.

Oddly, just about the only thing wrong with Chris Taylor's **The Beautiful Game** (Gollancz, £16.99) is its title. For this book, subtitled "A Journey Through Latin-American Football", goes beyond Pelé's words to examine the game in all its shades. Taylor, a Guardian colleague, travels through Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Mexico, retracing the history of the game on the South American continent, from the efforts of such 19th-century British pioneers as Thomas Hogg in Buenos Aires, William Poole in Montevideo, and Charles Miller, who organised the first game of football ever played in Brazil, one day in 1895 on a field in Sao Paulo.

Taylor fits each nation's football into its general culture with wisdom and sensitivity. Here he contrasts the two men who coached Argentina to victory, the raffish, bohemian César Menotti of 1978 and the harsh, conservative Carlos Bilardo of 1986: "For his followers, Menotti is the Dr Jekyll of Argentinian football; Bilardo, its Mr Hyde. But Jekyll and Hyde were, of course, two sides of the same man."

Several players, of the past and the present, speak illuminatingly about their experiences, among them Antonio Rattin, the Argentine captain momentously sent off at Wembley in 1966; Zico, star of Brazil's feckless playboys of 1982; and Gustavo Poyet, currently embodying the old strengths of Uruguayan football on the King's Road. But Taylor also tackles racism, corruption and murder.

For a compact, literate, all-round history of the tournament, Brian Glanville's **The Story of the World Cup** (Faber, £9.99) is the best of the bunch. First published before the 1974 finals, and regularly updated, it reflects the vast knowledge and enlightened prejudices of the first British football critic to base his outlook in the belief that the British way of playing the game was not naturally superior to all others. Glanville was often mocked for seeming to favour footballers simply because their names ended with a vowel; looking around today's press box, he must sometimes feel entitled to claim royalties.

Although it necessarily duplicates some of Glanville's coverage, Cris Freddi's **The Complete Book of the World Cup** (Collins Willow, £14.99) is in fact a useful complement, since it favours detail over narrative and includes the full teams from every match played in the final stages since 1930. Well designed, it contains a lovely colour picture of the first champions, in their sky-blue shirts, among them the prominent figure of José Leandro Andrade, christened "The Black Marvel" by admiring French crowds at the 1924 Olympics. A former carnival musician and shoe-shiner, Andrade had travelled to France, like the rest of his team mates, on a third-class ticket. Afterwards he stayed on in Paris to become, in Galeano's phrase, a "king of the cabarets". But you probably knew that already. In a sense, we're all Uruguayans now.

Julian Critchley exposes the Tory Party's real assassin

Whodunnit? Mrs T

Guilty Men
by Hywel Williams
261pp, Aurum Press, £19.95

Hywel Williams, John Redwood's former special adviser, has written an account of the decline and fall of the Tory party and the Major government. It is a highly partisan account of two leadership elections: the one when the Prime Minister saw off Mr Redwood; the other, when the tattered remnant of the Tories, 184 strong, voted for a leader to replace John Major. Both episodes were discreditable, and revealed the extent to which the Conservative Party has gone to the dogs.

Mrs Thatcher, who seized power in a coup d'état in 1975 — the so-called "peasants' revolt" — brought about the downfall of the most successful party in politics, a process disguised by an electoral system that for three elections worked in favour of the Tory party. Mrs Thatcher soon became intolerable, dismissive of views that were contrary to her own, rude to her colleagues, and eventually unbalanced. This degeneration was hidden from the public at large by the slavish admiration of the right-wing press, and of Rupert Murdoch in particular.

The defenestration of Mrs Thatcher in the autumn of 1990 was compounded by the "invention" of John Major. Major, who had held three major offices of state, none of them long enough to make any real impression, was "the man who could stop Michael Heseltine". In an ideal world Major would have become either Hurd's or Heseltine's chief whip, but the Tory party has always indulged its natural taste for mediocrity.

Williams, who has an axe to grind, seems only reluctantly to have come to the conclusion that the survival of the Tory government was impossible. Major won in '92 because he was not Thatcher, but a gap had opened up between the party's establishment, which favoured greater European integration, and its rank and file of petty nationalists and Eurosceptics. Many of the party loyalists had retired from politics, and the rank and file, the estate agents, bounders and garagistes shrank from "One Nation" Conservatism and reverted to type. They could not forgive themselves for having voted Major into power; in his turn Major was not a strong enough character to get the better of his enemies, ranging from the ambitious Portillo to the sly Redwood.

Williams's polemic might have been better titled "Death Wish" for that is precisely what the party suffered from, and still suffers to this day. Hurd and Ken Clarke have retired to the City, Chris Patten to Ireland and Michael Heseltine to his arboretum. Who on earth have we left? An untried "teenager" whose unpopularity is unrivalled. A disappointed, even bitter, Redwood who sees 15 years of opposition devouring his prime. Peter Lilley, who could not knock the skin off a rice pudding. And Michael Howard, who quite deservedly came last in the June '97 leadership election.

Has the Tory party a future? I ask only for information. Does it much matter what William Hague says about Europe, save for the further disharmony he causes among Conservatives? The chances of his becoming Prime Minister are remote. The substitution of that old Liberal imperialist Winston Churchill for Neville Chamberlain (thanks to Adolf Hitler) saved the Tory party for the better part of 50 years. We are back to the days of Sam Hoare, Lord Halifax and Kingsley Wood, although they at least held office. If you ever doubted the old truism "there's no love at the top", read Mr Williams.

Julian Critchley was a Conservative MP for 31 years. His autobiography, A Bag of Boiled Sweets, is published in paperback by Faber (£6.99). His Collapse of Stout Party will be published in paperback by Gollancz in September.

Nick Crafts on a book that doesn't work hard enough to succeed

The Protestant shirk ethic

The Wealth and Poverty of Nations
by David Landes
650pp, Little, Brown, £20

Economic history is in severe decline in British universities, so it would be an excellent moment for the arrival of a book which captures the public imagination, addresses the big issues and offers insights into the roots of economic success and failure. These indeed seem to be David Landes's aims as he sets out "to do world history" and to answer questions such as "How did rich countries get so rich, why are the poor countries so poor, and why did Europe take the lead in changing the world?" So is this really the answer to the economic historian's prayers?

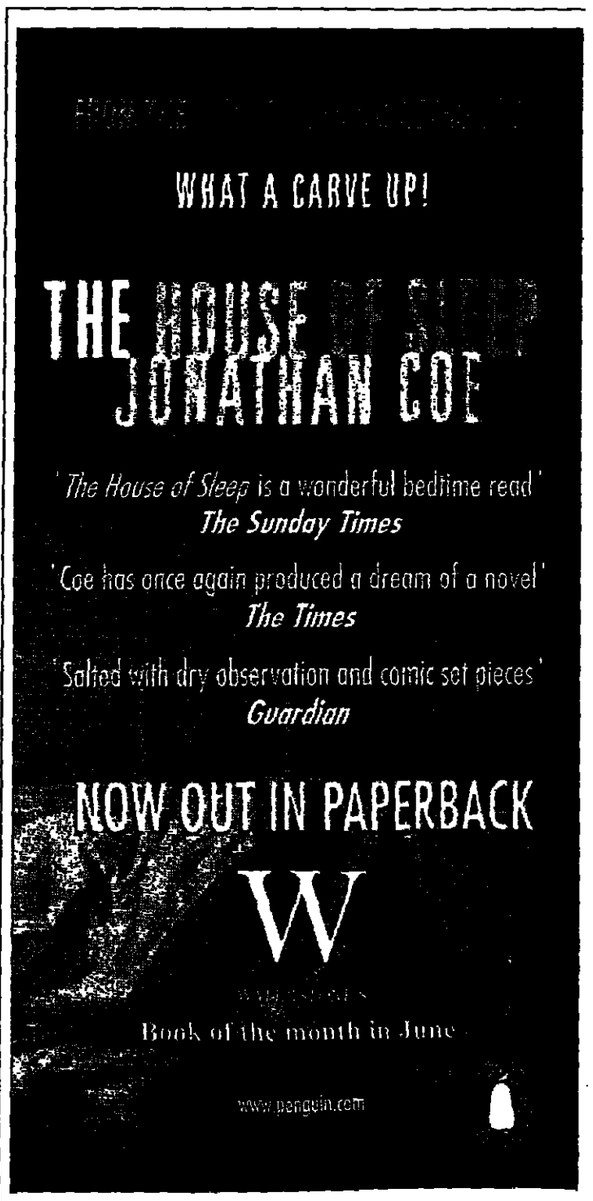
Certainly, the author displays a dazzling range of knowledge and breathtaking audacity in covering a thousand years of world economic history. The pace is that of a desperately ambitious television documentary, but accompanied by hundreds of learned footnotes. Many fascinating and unexpected details emerge from the history of technological advance; for example, the economic significance to medieval Europe of the inventions of eyeglasses and mechanical clocks. Contentious opinions are stated forcefully, the chapters are short, and the style is clearly intended to attract a very wide audience. Lots of sentences without verbs and an important, if polemical, message to sell, namely, that political correctness is the enemy of good history.

The main lines of argument are that the culture of a country is the crucial ingredient for economic success and that, given the establishment of a suitable economic and legal infrastructure which combines competition with secure property rights, education, inventiveness and entrepreneurship are the keys to achieving and sustaining economic leadership. The cultural characteristics which are conducive to riches are the good old Victorian values of a strong work ethic and sense of purpose. Better to be Protestant than Catholic or Japanese rather than Latin American.

Landes is most persuasive in his account of the rise of Europe, which fits nicely with his main themes and draws on his extensive research in the history of technology. He is surely right that Europe should be praised for its economic and social precocity, that its primacy in the industrial revolution was no accident, and that this should be broadcast rather than downplayed in the interests of appearing not to be Eurocentric in the classroom.

Ultimately, however, the book is a disappointment; it promises much more than it can deliver. It is not a work which offers important new truths and research findings. At best, it re-asserts some useful old knowledge and provides some helpful synthesis. At its worst, it offers no more than tired old opinions — Landes's stress on the importance of the work ethic is ironic given the laziness of his own arguments.

Nick Crafts is Professor of Economic History at the London School of Economics.



The Loafer makes Hay

When so many authors are gathered together in a small space, it is always interesting to observe the pecking order among them. One way of doing so is seeing how they arrive. The up-and-coming are driven to the Hay-on-Wye literary festival by their agents. The big names get courtesy cars all the way from Hereford station. The truly, truly important (John Humphrys and Uri Geller) come by helicopter. Geller's chopper swept in over the Black Mountains, searchlight blazing, to great effect. Humphrys's pilot, however, got disorientated and landed in the wrong field. An irate hill farmer is currently pursuing a legal action to compensate him for the trauma suffered by his cattle.

The other sign of status is accommodation. The first question amongst the literati is always, "where are you staying?" If your publishers love you, they stump up for a room at the fabulously expensive Llangoed Hall. If you are billeted on one of the long-suffering "Friends" of the Festival, several of whom seem to live in the loveliest houses in Britain, your star is indeed in the ascendant. If you are published by Faber and Faber, you stay in the sinisterly named "Faber House". (Such stabling of authors has its precedents. In the 18th century, leading publisher Edmund Curll kept his writers in a garret above the shop, whistling them down to produce a poem or pamphlet as required. Apparently they slept together in one big bed. One hopes the Faber House is a little less cramped.)

The questions from the audience that invariably follow talks at Hay tend to be friendly. "Who is your favourite Jane Austen heroine?", was the biggest poser faced by Claire Tomalin. What the speakers do not realise is that some of those in the audience are what one might call "serial questioners". For festival-goers, one of the dominant personalities this year has been a balding man in a grey-ribbed jumper called Brian who seems to be there at the end of every session with a lengthy question.

As he grasps the microphone, the punters, who've heard it all before, groan inwardly, but those on the stage know no better than to smile receptively. He begins with fulsome thanks to the speakers, and they visibly warm to him. However, just as rapport is established, Brian says what no author wants to hear. He too is "thinking of writing".

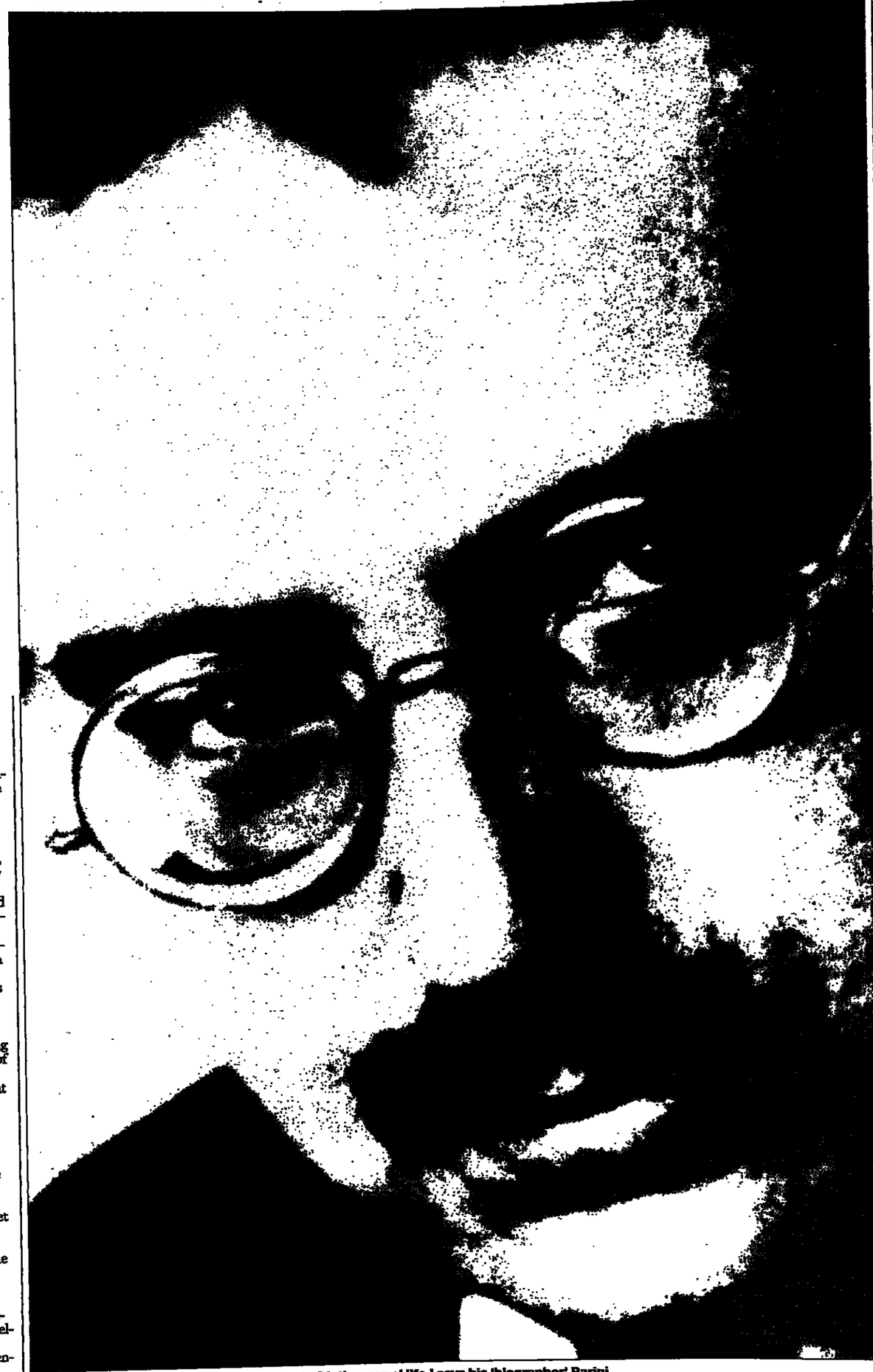
Germaine Greer was one of the few to provoke a genuinely hostile (and pointed) question. Perhaps it was her design, for her lecture on Shakespeare was characteristically provocative. She opined that, in the 16th century, Venus and Adonis was "what horny housewives kept in the sock-drawer" and that the role of Shakespeare's wife had been neglected for much of the 20th century because "to celibate scholars the thought of a wife was cock-crinklingly terrible". In amongst such bons mots, she had many harsh words for leading American academic Helen Vendler, author of a recent book on Shakespeare's sonnets. Yet even she seemed a little nonplussed when, at question time, a member of the audience said, "Some of the things that you said about Helen Vendler seemed trivial and bitchy: what have you got against her?" Greer was only momentarily fazed before she grasped at her answer. "My friend Tom Paulin loves Vendler's book, so it was an affectionate joke against him."

- Longest queue for book-signings: Terry Pratchett.
- Oddest-looking members of queue for book signings: ditto.
- Cruellest session: Priya Wickramasinghe's Sri Lankan cookery, prepared before a salivating audience, then removed to be eaten by festival staff.
- Raconteur of the Festival: Lord Callaghan, for his account of being taken for a (high-speed) spin through every red light by Idi Amin, in his green Mercedes.
- Smoker of the Festival: Christopher Hitchens — heroic.
- Most fancied Hay author: Rupert Thomson. The Loafer overheard someone saying they'd like to drown his girlfriend.

arts

Jay Parini didn't want to write a biography of the great philosopher Walter Benjamin. It would, he said, have been a hard slog. Instead, he decided to make it up. And that's when everyone began to get angry. He talks to **Desmond Christy**

Panties on the brain



Walter Benjamin... 'Here is a man obsessed with the sexual life,' says his 'biographer' Parini

Julie swept her hair to one side, and he [Walter Benjamin] saw again how lovely her face was, with a straight, small nose, and her lips pale and pink. Her eyes burned distantly, like moons on early winter mornings. Unexpectedly, he wanted to make love to her again, to feel the length of her beneath him, and her heels digging into his back. He reached for her leg, and she let him slide his hand up to her panties.

— from Benjamin's Crossing, by Jay Parini

Walter Benjamin would have hated Jay Parini's latest novel, its subject being none other than Walter Benjamin. A novel about the great German-Jewish philosopher and his tragic death, by suicide, as he attempted to flee the Nazis! What's more, a novel that does not blush to present a Benjamin groping for panties.

You could hear the disapproval and incredulity in George Steiner's voice during a recent radio talk as he mentioned the fact that novels were now being written about Benjamin. Here was a man who, as a friend put it, "in himself and his relations with others always insisted unreservedly upon the primacy of mind; which, in lieu of immediacy, became for him immediate". How could anyone ever be qualified to write a novel about a man so obsessed with the mind, a mind that has been called "one of the seminal minds of all modernity"? Who, for that matter, could have a handle on all of Benjamin's intellectual interests and not find the whole misguided enterprise sinking under the weight of them?

Strangely, Jay Parini, biographer of John Steinbeck and, this autumn, of Robert Frost, is not being hounded out of town by the critics any more than he was when, in an earlier novel, he tackled the final days of Leo Tolstoy, another giant who had been labouring in the obscurity of not having been novelised by Parini. Harold Bloom, no less, has called Benjamin's Crossing "a poignant and eloquent vision of the great critic's personality and fate".

Parini, with four books of poetry and five novels to his credit, could have done the safer thing and written a biography. "I decided that it would just be more fun to write it as a novel. To write it as a biography would just have been a hard slog. I decided I would take the risk of entering into Benjamin's mind, which is presumptuous. Nonetheless, that was my enjoyment."

Someone who has not read Benjamin will not appreciate the scale of the impertinence involved in "entering into Bejamin's mind". Benjamin wrote wonderfully about Brecht, his friend, about photography, Baudelaire, Goethe, Kafka, art and technology, history and aesthetics, and objects of everyday life which previously had seemed unworthy of critical attention. His great thesis? George Steiner put it like this: "That a historian but also a philosopher, no a human being, thinking about the past, has a supreme duty, which is to rescue from silence, and from the lies of the victors, the oppressed, the enslaved, the victims of sucessful injustice, to bring them back to protesting life, out of the strategic amnesia which is imposed by offical records of what really happened in history — the emperors, the kings, the rich and the victors."

Even those who have not read Benjamin may nowadays have some sense of how iconic a figure he has become, emblematic of Jewish genius, of the freelance mind spurned by the academy, yet far more creative than most tenured intellectuals. More than that, he symbolises the wound the Nazis inflicted on European culture, a wound so grievous that it has, arguably, never recovered.

Parini greatly enjoyed the freedoms that are permitted the novelist but denied the biographer. "I loved the closing scene where Benjamin is in a little abandoned shack at the foothills of the Pyrenees, the night before he goes across to Spain. I knew that he was in that shack that night. If I was writing a biography, all I would have been able to write was 'Benjamin spent the night in a shack.' I wouldn't have been able to say what he was thinking, what was going through his mind." For the most part, the facts in Benjamin's Crossing are as factual as in a biography. "If I say that Benjamin spent three months in Capri in 1924, you can be pretty sure that he did. Whenever I quote him, I'm quoting, for the most part, things that he wrote or said. I'm often taking things that he said and putting them in his mouth. That's why I put in all those epigraphs from Benjamin — to give you some idea of how he talked." The story is told from various points of view. One of these voices is that of Gershom Scholem, the scholar of Jewish mysticism who was one of the few friends Benjamin could talk to as an intellectual equal. The letters they exchanged on Kafka, for example, have been described by George Steiner as "about as near to the limits of literary criticism and of the arts of reading as anything since Plato or Aristotle".

But, surely, the conversations in Benjamin's Crossing are far more penetrable than they would have been in real life? "Yes. Absolutely," says Parini, without a trace of guilt. "If anything, it falsifies on the side of lucidity. Benjamin is not that readable. I think I do manage to make him more lucid — I try to, anyway. I made a vow to myself when I started writing that I would never publish a line that I didn't understand myself. It tends to make one much undervalued as a writer. I don't think George Steiner understands everything he writes."

Knowing the storytellers that Benjamin admired, and his scepticism about psychology in stories, it is easy to imagine that he would have had Parini's latest novel pulped. He would have hated every word, wouldn't he? "I think so. Yes, he'd have hated my book, although I quote him in it as saying the novel of the future will be made up of fragments. And, to some degree, I tried to adhere to that aesthetic. The book is made up of a patchwork of qualities, images, voices and thoughts, although it is far more coherent than anything Benjamin could have conceived of."

Benjamin wrote: "I came into this world under the sign of Saturn — star of the slowest revolution, planet of detours and delays." Parini rules a more ordered universe. "A novelist who narrates in detours and delays is going to find a very narrow audience. Although I made some gestures in the direction of indirection, I don't think it is really very complicated."

But there were still two more things troubling me about Parini's novel. The way in which his intellectuals converse, and the panties.

"It's very tricky writing a book about intellectuals. You have to give some flavour of the kind of thing they might have said to each other — about philosophy, history and so forth. When I was writing it, I spent a lot of time in Italy. My neighbour there is Gore Vidal and we are good friends. I was sitting by his pool and I said to Gore, 'Do you think I can have characters talking for 14 or 15 pages about history, aesthetics and such things?' 'Only,' said Gore, 'if they are sitting in a railway carriage and there is a bomb under the seat.' That's been my guiding principle. Any time I'm going to have a character talk about Heidegger, I put another metaphorical bomb under the seat — the Nazis are coming, or the plane is going to crash, or a sexual encounter may occur."

Which brought me to the unexploded bomb, which I primed at the start of this article. Walter Benjamin and panties! "Yes, it's true that panties and Walter Benjamin seem an incongruous combination. You know some people refuse to believe that Walter Benjamin had a body. But once I worked through the diaries and the letters, it was clear to me that he was sex mad. He was constantly hiring whores or coming up with girlfriends. Here is a man who was obsessed with the body, with the sexual life."

Parini tried hard to get at the physical suffering of Benjamin's attempted flight from the Nazis and heard an account of that journey from Lisa Fittko, the woman who led Benjamin across the Pyrenees and who is also a leading character in the novel. "Lisa Fittko told me that that time he slipped off the path, he was clinging there above a 3,000 foot drop. That's all very physical. I'm trying to give the physical life of Walter Benjamin as much as the mental life. You can get the mental life from reading his books. You don't need a novelist to do that."

Though it does not neglect the pathos of Benjamin's death, Parini's novel is not a hagiography. "I was surprised at how amoral he was. His indifference to his wife and son appalled me. At some level I really came to dislike this man, although I loved him in another way.

"Also, he talked so much about the meaning of history and the destruction of history, yet it is history that killed him. He was a man unable to move from theory to practice. He was a man who took up Marxism only because it was eroticised through this beautiful Latvian, Asja Lacis. Without her, I doubt that he would ever have moved in the direction of Marxism. He was an aesthete, a collector, he had a huge toy collection; he was a bourgeois Berliner to the hilt. He had a connoisseur's mentality which is radically at odds with the Marxist man of the people, even though he was one of the inventors of the study of mass culture.

"Just as his mind was in some way disconnected from his body — there was a tremendous mind-body split there — so there was a disconnection between him as a thinker, as a collector of ideas, and practice. That's why he was sufficiently stupid to stay in Paris until the autumn of 1940. You or I would have left in 1936."

Hadn't Parini's view of Benjamin met with a lot of opposition? It was true that his version of Benjamin went very much against the academic grain. "This is not a book that highbrow theoreticians of postmodernism approve of. They oppose the whole idea of making a novel out of Walter Benjamin's life."

By now, my little bombs are all safely defused.

> Parini said to Gore Vidal, 'Do you think I can have characters talking for 15 pages about aesthetics?' 'Only,' he said, 'if they are sitting in a railway carriage and there is a bomb under the seat'

Benjamin's Crossing is published by Anchor at £6.99.

Frankly, I'd rather be Gormless

Provocations
Martin Wainwright

As the world fills inexorably with Gorms and Gormlets, the time has come to ask two favours of their creator, sculptor Antony Gormley.

Is there any chance, first, of cheering up the colossi and homunculi that have sprouted across the country, from Gateshead to Piccadilly?

I know it can't be much fun being wrapped in clingfilm and getting plastered (the Gormley mould-making technique), but a smile, even a hint of a dimple, would make them less grim. Not sentimental, the ultimate no-word for artists, just a bit more animated.

Blank, almost mummified features were the main reason my own city of Leeds failed to love the Brick Man, a mega-Gorm which, unusually but thank God, has never got beyond a maquette. We already have plenty of people built like brick privies up here, but we like the little details that explain who they are: lopsided grins, lazy eyes, crow's feet.

Ah, but severe, slabby anonymity is fundamental to the purpose of this artist's statement, isn't it? Then, request number two, why doesn't Gormley wrap his clingfilm round someone other than himself?

The anonymity is nonsense anyway, as everyone knows that each Gorm — be it tiny, as vast as the Angel Of The North or exactly Antony's 6ft 4in — is made in the image of its creator.

To understand a psyche which can bear to gaze so relentlessly at the mirror, we don't need Narcissus or the Ladybird Book Of World Domination.

No, the roots of Gormenghast got all the compost they needed on a green hill near Thirsk, in the prestigious classrooms of Ampleforth College.

A couple of monster feet on one end and Antony's huge head on the other, and the sculptor's Alma Mater could be transformed into the most appropriate Gormbeast of all. Because wasn't it this temple of boundless self-confidence (plus standard later CV — Cambridge. Slade and a stint in a London squat) that started the march of Gorms across the world?

Perhaps, as a deferential nation, we want to have an enormous head-prefect keeping watch on the Tyne. Maybe we need thousands of terracotta



Gorms, Gorms, Gorms... the RA gets the Gormley treatment

house monitors grouped in the shape of the British Isles to reassure us that all is fundamentally well. But we've got a stroppy, democratic streak too, haven't we? Especially in the North.

Driving down the A1(M) past Gateshead, the name Ozymandias springs to mind. In 20 years' time, will we just see two metal stumps rusting away beside the road, marking the spot where the Angel Of The North once stood?

To avoid such a shabby fate, Gormenghast needs to involve more of its citizens. Antony has four brothers, three children and a wife who is an artist in her own right. Couldn't they (the brothers representing their own fine professions of doctor, estate agent, furniture-maker and Oxfam director) have their bodies, rather than his, immortalised on the eight granite boulders planned as the British Library's slice of Gorm?

That would be a start. Then there must be neighbours in Camden, tennis partners, Rotarians with factories around the Gormley studio in Peckham, friends, passers-by; and clingfilm is constantly improving and getting more supple.

That way true greatness lies. That and a Gorm with the ghost of a grin. Then you can come back to Humslet, Mr G, and build us something truly awe-inspiring, something really angelic. Something calculated to make Gateshead green with envy.

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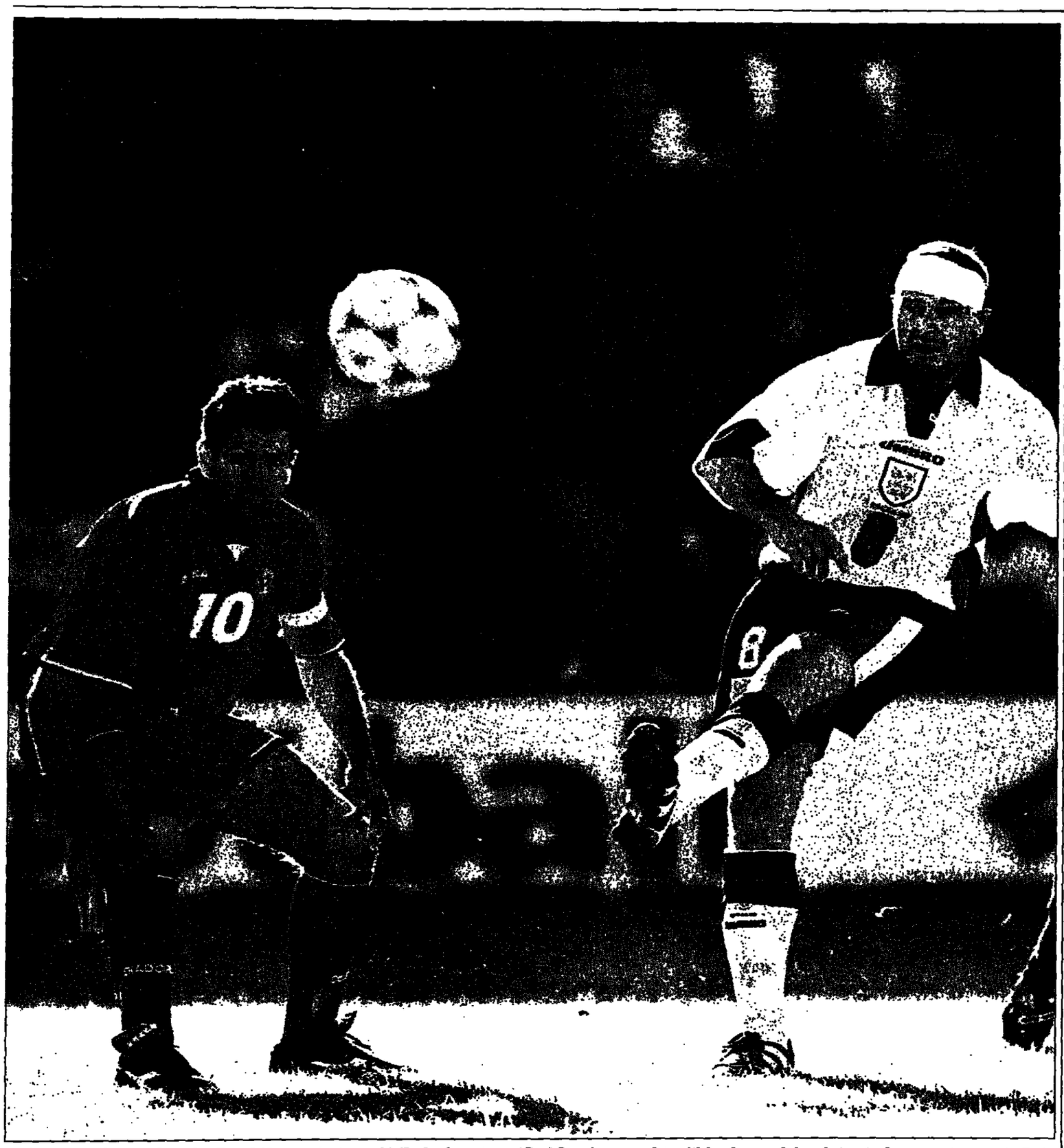
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Six-page section

weekend sport

The Guardian

Saturday May 30 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk



Head start . . . Belgium's playmaker Enzo Scifo can only stare as his England counterpart Paul Gascoigne, complete with bandage, curls in a shot yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: SHAUN BOTTERILL

Friendly international: Belgium 0 England 0 (Belgium win 4-3 on penalties)

Gazza fails to spark England

David Lacey in Casablanca sees the final World Cup warm-up end in defeat from a penalty shoot-out

GLENN HODDLE did his utmost to look on the bright side, but it was an uphill struggle. "We have learnt a bit," insisted the England coach after last night's goalless draw against Belgium had led to a 4-3 defeat on penalties, Rob Lee and Les Ferdinand proving unequal to the task. "We tried a few more people and did better in the second half. In the first half with a flat back four we played in straight lines and it shows you can be more flexible with a back three."

As if to emphasise the ephemeral nature of the exercise, Hoddle handed the captain's armband to Sol Campbell, at 23 the youngest player to lead England since Bobby Moore. Moore was 22 when he captained Alf Ramsey's team for the first time in 1963 against Czechoslovakia in Bratislava, oddly enough on the same date, May 29.

So much for the past. The inclusion of Gascoigne for the second time in three days was a pertinent reminder that this match was all about the immediate future.

Having lasted 90 minutes against Morocco, though showing signs of exhaustion, Hoddle's most gifted yet most problematical player needed a performance of better quality to allay doubts that he would be too much of a risk in France.

At least Gascoigne could be reasonably sure that he would be in the squad. For Lee, Butt, Merson and Les Ferdinand this was either a last chance to impress or a consolation for being omitted, depending on the extent to which the England coach may have already made up his mind.

It had been eight years since the countries' last meeting, a rather more momentous affair in Bologna in the second round of the 1990 World Cup when David Platt's late goal, from Gascoigne's free-kick, took Bobby Robson's side through to the quarter-finals. Reaching the last eight will surely be Hoddle's minimum requirement this time.

Yesterday there were momentary doubts that Gascoigne would survive beyond the seventh minute after receiving the flailing boot of Enzo Scifo above the left eye. While Humpty Dumpty was being put together again Belgium should by rights have scored.

Lokonda "Emile" Mpenza launched himself through a channel of space on the left before catching England's defenders square with a high pass into the middle, where Michael Goossens and Danny Boffin were both unmarked as they moved to receive it. Fortunately for England the pair impeded each other in their eagerness to shoot, and Martyn ended up having to field nothing more than a feeble shot from Boffin.

No matter what system Hoddle adopts there will always be problems when the ball is freely given away. Last night was a familiar story as Scifo and Glen De Boeck won easy possession in midfield and sought out their front runners.

When England did get their passing together the results were encouraging. From Gascoigne's pass, Lee's throughball released Les Ferdinand only for the striker to be ruled offside. At least the Belgian cover had been penetrated.

Yet without either Paul Ince or David Batty mounting sentry duty in midfield England remained vulnerable to the sort of move which could have seen them fall behind midway through the half. Boffin darted behind Gascoigne to meet De Boeck's pass and set up Lokonda Mpenza for a shot which Nigel Martyn did well to push wide.

Such moments of excitement were rare in an encounter which increasingly took on the guise of a practice kick-about. Nevertheless Goossens did receive a sharp reminder from Martin Keown — in the face as it happened — that this was, after all, an international.

Not that the Belgians seemed to need their memories jogged in such pointed fashion. Goossens and De Boeck appeared to be doing their utmost to arouse the beast in Gascoigne and towards half-time Scifo caught Gary Neville with the sort of late tackle which will pounced upon by World Cup referees.

After 45 minutes England could be grateful to Martyn that they were not two or three goals down. In stoppage time Phil Neville committed himself rashly on the left, allowing Gert Verheyen to race clear behind him. Once more Mpenza was the beneficiary of Belgium's speed on the break, and once again he could not beat the England goalkeeper.

Hoddle's change of shape after half-time did not exactly stop the Belgians in their tracks, far from it. First Mbo Mpenza, who had replaced Goossens, saw a mishit shot saved by Martyn after Verheyen had had one blocked. Then, two minutes later, his brother Lokonda headed wide after Scifo's centre from the byline had left England completely exposed at the far post.

Compared with the opposition England's attack was resting on its haunches, although Le Saux did surprise Philippe Van De Walle just past the hour with a rising drive which the Belgian goalkeeper just managed to push clear. Soon after this Merson responded to a rare opportunity with a typically sharp volley which skimmed the crossbar.

Campbell's experience of international captaincy was cut short by a foul which saw De Boeck booked in the 65th minute. Dublin replaced Campbell 10 minutes later, glad to offer Hoddle tangible evidence of the versatility which makes him a cover both fore and aft.

Les Ferdinand took the armband, thus awaking the possibility of his becoming the first England captain to be left out of a World Cup squad. Certainly the strength and timing of Dublin's recovering tackle on Lokonda Mpenza eight minutes from the end confirmed his defensive strengths.

Martyn's outstanding late save from Scifo added a rider to the powerful case he had already made out for inclusion in the squad. Certainly he deserved his piece of good fortune in the last minute, when Scifo's pass split the England defence asunder, only for Lokonda Mpenza to drag the ball wide.

SUBSTITUTIONS:
Belgium: M Mpenza for Goossens (h-t), Oliveirinha for Verheyen (63min), Haestenda Gunes (Liverpool) for G Neville (h-t), R Ferdinand (West Ham) for P Neville (h-t), Beeckman (Man United) for Gascoigne (50min), Dublin (Coventry) for Campbell (74min).

Football: Scotland into action

Crying game is all over for Leighton

Patrick Glenn in Washington on the veteran keeper who plays against the United States tonight, eight years after his all-time low

JIM LEIGHTON is unlikely to go as far as sending Andy Goram a wish-you-were-here postcard, but the Aberdeen goalkeeper does feel genuine anguish about his rival's self-imposed exile from Scotland's World Cup party.

With Goram running for cover back to Britain, Leighton will win his 86th cap this afternoon in Scotland's final warm-up match, against the United States at the RFK Stadium here in Washington.

The manager Craig Brown is left with little option other than to nominate Leighton as his goalkeeper for the World Cup, in which Scotland will share a group with Norway, Morocco and the holders Brazil, their first opponents on Wednesday week in Paris.

Leighton has gone from hero to zero and back again in remarkably quick time. His lowest moment came in Italia 90, coincidentally against Brazil, when having dived to push away a shot nine minutes from time he turned to see the striker Muller clip the loose ball over the line. It was the only goal of the match and signalled yet another Scotland failure to go beyond the World Cup's first phase.

"I was the very last person to leave the pitch," Leighton recalls. "I loitered on my own 18-yard line and Claudio Taffarel, the Brazil goalkeeper, had to come all the way up the field to shake my hand. I stood there taking in what I thought was my last World Cup."

Leighton was entitled to contemplate his future with a certain bleakness; he was 31 and had just lost his place in the Manchester United first team after his old Aberdeen mentor Alex Ferguson held him to blame for Crystal Palace's 3-3 draw in the 1990 FA Cup final and replaced him with Les Sealey for the replay, which United won 1-0.

He never played for United's first team again and, after loan spells at Arsenal and Reading and more time in United's reserves, he found himself keeping goal for Dundee's reserves.

Considering the damage done to his self-esteem during the three years after Italia 90 it would have been understandable if Leighton had simply walked away. Instead, eight years after the crushing disappointment of Turin, he is preparing to face Brazil again in the World Cup, only a few weeks from his 40th birthday.

He first appeared in Scotland's 1982 World Cup squad and was the No.1 choice in Mexico in 1986 as well as in Italy. During a career spanning more than two decades he has broken all eight fingers and both thumbs. In Scotland's New Jersey hotel last week he was wearing a white elastic bandage down the length of his wedding-ring finger. Had he suffered another injury? "That? Oh, no, that's 15 years old, that one," he said, adding that when the football is over his hands will retain enough dexterity to hold a golf club.

Despite his dedication and the consequent return to the top level when he signed for Hibernian in 1993, there was always the shadow of Goram. Before Euro 96, Leighton kept clean sheets in the last six qualifying games only to be passed over in favour of the Rangers man for the group matches.

Until Goram's defection last Tuesday the question as to who would be chosen by Brown for today's match and for the World Cup itself was unresolved. Brown had said that whoever kept goal against the United States would stay put for Brazil.

"I was trying to see signs in everything that happened here in America," says Leighton. "Everybody was asking who was going to be in the team and I was desperate to find out as well.

"I remember Euro 96 as the worst feeling I have ever had in football. I wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy. Now, it was just around the corner again for me or Andy. It wasn't nice to be looking ahead to that.

"In 1996 I cried my eyes out for three days; I had built myself up so much to play in that tournament. And I would have done the same thing again now. You'd think I'd know better at my age."

That blind willingness to risk further torture has made him one of the game's great survivors. After the Euro 96 experience his first reaction was to jump ship but his wife Linda and his father persuaded him to stay on board.

"They didn't want me ending my international career in haste," he says. "They wanted me retiring on my own terms, when it was my decision. That was good advice. I've taken more satisfaction from the last five years than from the rest of my career.

"I made my debut for Aberdeen as a teenager, I was in the World Cup squad in 1982 and I won the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1983 at the age of 24. It all came easily and quickly. This time around I've had to earn it."

McKinlay wings his way back from Scotland wilderness

Patrick Glenn

TOSH McKINLAY, the full-back who made only six starts for Celtic last season and has not played for Scotland since October, is expected to start in today's final World Cup warm-up against the United States at RFK Stadium here in Washington.

Injuries to midfielder Craig Burley and striker Gordon Durie have made manager Craig Brown abandon his plan of fielding the team who will face Brazil on Wednesday week.

The reshuffle will probably take Jackie McNamara from right wing-back into midfield, — the role played taken by Burley in last Saturday's the 2-2 draw with Colombia in at Giants Stadium, New Jersey — with Christian Dailly switching from left wing-back to replace McNamara and McKinlay filling the Derby man's role.

The return of Kevin Gallacher, who had a stomach virus and missed last Saturday's 2-2 draw with Colombia, is good news for Brown. The Blackburn Rovers man is the most prolific forward currently at work in the Scotland squad. In the World Cup qualifying matches he scored six goals in his last five games.

Gallacher had was a stomach "We have our team for Brazil in mind," he said, "and what we want to do now is to try and improve on it, perhaps with one positional or personnel change."

The heat and humidity of the capital, where it is forecast that the temperature may be in the 90s, makes the match doubly significant for Brown. "It won't be any more demanding in France and this will give our guys an experience of it," he said.

The US have adopted a 3-6-1 formation and it has served them well in three friendlies where they did not concede a goal. But Roy Wegerle, the former QPR and Coventry player who is the lone striker, said: "Scotland are a better test than Macedonia or Kuwait. They will give us a better idea of how far we've come and how far we have to go."

SCOTLAND (probable, 3-5-2): **Leighton** (Aberdeen); **Calderwood** (Spurs), **Hendry** (Blackburn), **Boyd** (Celtic); **Dailly** (Derby), **McNamara** (Celtic), **Lambert** (Celtic), **Collins** (Monaco), **McKinlay** (Celtic); **Gallacher** (Blackburn), **Jackson** (Celtic).
UNITED STATES (probable, 3-6-1): **Keller; Pope, Dooley, Regis; Jones, Maisonneuve, Stewart, Reyna, Deering, Agoos; Wegerle.**

Football: Brazil on the rack

Come on Eileen, tell the Mikado man to lighten up, anyone would think there was a Ford Escort at stake

David Lacey



SOMEWHERE among England's kit suppliers the spirit of Gilbert and Sullivan lingers on. Why else would Glenn Hoddle's bench look like the Pirates of Penzance, ready at any moment to set forth, with cat-like tread upon the raging sea?

Of course what this World Cup is really all about is Trial by Drewery, a testament to the healing powers of the amazing Eileen, although Ian Wright's torn hamstring was clearly beyond even her.

Hoddle, meanwhile, is preparing himself for a leading role in the Mikado. He's got a little list, though they'll none of them be missed.

Not that this is quite how the England coach will put it on Monday when he announces the 22 names who will make up his World Cup squad. Those who miss the cut will be assured that it is nothing personal, but to the extent that one man's preference will be the deciding factor it can hardly be anything else.

So the England camp at the La Manga Club Resort will be full of little tensions this weekend as the majority of the squad who are assured of their places mingle with those who suspect that they are about to become excess baggage.

Clues are few. So intent is Hoddle on keeping a respectable distance between his players and a news-hungry media that even the Football Association's press officer has been billeted with the hacks in a timeshare complex well away from the team hotel.

It can be assumed that the rivalry among the players is less intense than that reflected in one incident leading up to the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. Each member of Alf Ramsey's England squad had been promised a Ford Escort — then quite a luxury for a footballer — and this led to Alan Mullery being ruthlessly fouled by a rival for his position. "I'll have that car off you yet," snarled the aggressor. Not that he ever did.

Yet clearly the situation is getting under the skins of some of Hoddle's players. Normally Teddy Sheringham, an intelligent footballer, offers a useful insight into the game, but this week he faced the notebooks and tape recorders with the sullenness of a man brought in for questioning.

Hoddle's distancing of squad from media is perfectly understandable, given the importance of uninterrupted final preparations for the World Cup in a tranquil setting. But when France, who as the host nation will be under considerable pressure once the tournament begins, can produce 10 players in Casablanca for interviews at one press conference, it is clear that the English media are on extremely short rations where contact is concerned.

It was not always like this. After Ramsey's squad had arrived in Mexico City, minus Bobby Moore, who had been held in Bogota on trumped-up charges of stealing a bracelet, it was possible to drop into the England headquarters unannounced for a chat with any player prepared to talk.

This week, in between their friendlies with Morocco and Belgium in Casablanca, the England squad have managed to leave the press contingent in one continent, Africa, while flying back to another, Europe. If Hoddle does well in the World Cup none of this will matter, but, should England flop, the hounds of hyperbole could well find him yearning for the relative obscurity of the humble turnip.

Hell hath no fury like a wordsmith snubbed, and the bizarre twists of Hoddle's reign, the faith-healing and the reincarnation as much as any nuance of team selection or tactics, would be held against him in the event of failure.

It might be as well to define what, for England, would represent failure. The sports minister Tony Banks was right, if a mite tactless, when he said that England probably would not win the World Cup. They could, provided that luck with other results kept them away from the likes of Argentina and Germany in the knockout stage, but even then there would always be Brazil.

Should Hoddle take his side to the last eight, that would not be bad for a team lacking in World Cup experience. It would then depend on whom they met in the quarter-finals and how they performed. Yet another defeat by Germany would be hard to bear but at least the England coach could quote case histories in his defence.

The line of definition between success and failure is so narrow. Had England lost to Cameroon in the 1990 quarter-finals, as they so nearly did, Bobby Robson would have been thrown to the wolves. In the event their defeat on penalties by the Germans in the semi-finals, combined with Paul Gascoigne's tears, drew a crowd of 100,000 to Luton airport to welcome the players home like the world champions they were never to be.

Glenn Hoddle should be so lucky. But then in a previous life he may have been Judas Maccabeus, the original conquering hero.



Under siege . . . the name of the game in Lésigny, where Ronaldo, right, and Brazil are not altogether welcome

Lésigny finds itself under siege with Ronaldo and Co in residence



Jon Henley
reports from Paris

Trop de Brazil for the villagers

BRAZIL may have the most majestic set of players on the planet. They are the reigning kings of world football. But for the 8,000 inhabitants of Lésigny, a haven of leafy calm beyond the eastern fringes of Paris, they are a right royal pain in the backside.

"We're not responsible for their coming here and, to be perfectly frank, there are a lot of people who would rather they hadn't," said the village mayor, Maurice Mollard. "I'm doing my best to make sure it all goes well but I have to say it isn't easy."

Half a mile up the road, beyond a police road-block manned 24 hours a day by two equally disgruntled gendarmes, lies the source of the village's troubles: the Château de la Grande Romaine, an elegant white-walled building set in 70 acres of parkland. There the world champions are and there they will stay until, they hope, the World Cup final on July 12.

"Actually we're all secretly hoping they get knocked out early," said Nadine, who lives yards from the château and is already fed up with having to flash a security pass at a policeman every time she wants to leave her front door. "I don't know much about football and I have nothing in particular against Brazil but really this isn't very funny."

Last week police blew up a suspicious car parked near the squad's training ground at nearby Ozoir. Ronaldo and Romario are natural targets for any terrorist attack and, with 500 Brazilian journalists plus several thousand fanatical supporters intent on getting as close to the champions' headquarters as they can, Lésigny is a village under siege.

Only one road into its northern half is still open and those who live along it have been issued with fluorescent green passes to allow them through the barrier. Anyone else, which includes about 70 per cent of the village, has no alternative but to make a lengthy detour. Even the track to the local cemetery is closed: no one had better kick the bucket before Brazil do.



Mayor and square . . . Maurice Mollard says 'it hasn't been easy' but they tidied up the village for their uninvited guests



PHOTOGRAPHS: HELENA NORDSTRAND AND PAULO WHITAKER (Ronaldo picture)

"There's no point denying it's a headache for some people," said a resigned Mollard at the town hall, where a steady stream of residents were signing for their passes. "People have to go to the road-block and vouch for their visitors. I'm ashamed to say I had a letter earlier this week. The man enclosed a bill for all the extra mileage he, his wife and his maid would have to do to avoid the barricades."

Lésigny's motto is "Live Happy, Live Hidden". Many of its residents, having moved out from Paris with young families in the 1970s, are now retired. And, unlike many French towns, it made no bid to host one of the tournament's 32 teams, so was somewhat taken aback to find itself chosen by the most famous one of all. The Brazilians found the place themselves and dealt directly with the hotel.

"We really didn't want all the fuss," said Michel Vial, the town hall spokesman. "All the cars, all the people, all the litter. It's still two weeks till kick-off and already we've never seen anything like it. But I suppose they liked the hotel, they liked all the land around it and they liked the fact it's near the motorway and the airports. We have to make the best of it."

The village authorities are making an effort. They organised a buffet reception and ceremonial flag-raising to mark the squad's arrival last weekend, inviting officials from the Brazilian Football Confederation and the French Organising Committee.

Sadly the players were not available and afterwards someone stole all the Brazil flags.

The lanes and the small, shaded square, where normally only the discreet clack of boules disturbs the silence, have been smartened up and at the entrance to the village a roundabout has been planted with greenery and yellow flowers to resemble the Brazilian flag. "The people wouldn't understand us spending a lot of money on anything big and fancy," said Vial.

But the preparations have cost money, maybe up to £100,000, that can ill be spared from the municipal budget. Council workers and the village's five policemen have put in long hours of overtime, with more to come.

"And we're not being recompensed at all," complained the mayor. "There have been some toys for the local children, some drink from Coca-Cola, and Nike is organising something for the village football team. But we haven't seen a franc from the organising committee or the Brazilians."

The regional government is, at least, funding the security arrangements. Squadrons of motorbike police now spend their days roaring round the village's lanes, with dozens more guarding the road-blocks and the perimeter of the château's grounds.

Some villagers, to be fair, are philosophical. At the bar of Le Petit Ragueneau, overlooking the square, Jean-Paul, a management consultant, said that Lésigny should be honoured. "The World Cup comes to France once every 40 years," he said. "Surely people can put up with a little bit of inconvenience every half a century?"

Outside the bike shop Nicole and Jean were equally phlegmatic. "I'm not a football fan by any means but I don't think it's that bad," said Nicole. "I know I can't get to the next village very easily, so I don't go there. Simple, really." Jean even said he would place flowers on his father's grave, if he could get to it, in honour of Brazil's arrival: "He worked in Rio de Janeiro for many, many years. He'd like it."

Mollard, the mayor, tries hard to put things in perspective. "You know the French," he said. "They're never really happy unless they've got something to get properly worked up about."

He is probably right. "It's too much," fumed Saf, an Algerian-born workman, standing in happy Gallic fury on the high street which, to add insult to injury, has inexplicably become one-way. "You're not allowed to go here, you're not allowed to go there, you have to carry a stupid bit of paper. *Merde*, there's all too much *merde*."

● Air France, the World Cup's official carrier, is on collision course with its pilots, who are threatening a two-week strike from Monday over the company's lower salary scale for new hires and working conditions. The company said only 10 per cent of long-distance flights would operate on schedule and only a quarter of short- and medium-distance flights. The pilots say they may extend the stoppage to a month, hitting virtually all the tournament, if their demands are not met.

French truckers and train drivers, similarly locked in bitter talks with employers, have also threatened to disrupt the World Cup.

Casiraghi joins forces with Vialli

Trevor Haylett and Ian Ross

CHELSEA strengthened their foreign connection yesterday when the Italian striker Pierluigi Casiraghi completed a club record £5.4 million transfer from Lazio though the French defender Marcel Desailly, another target, is unlikely to join him.

Casiraghi, 29, seems certain to link up with the former Rangers winger Brian Laudrup in a new attacking line-up under Gianluca Vialli at Stamford Bridge which will cast doubt on the future of Mark Hughes and the Norwegian Tore Andre Flo. Yet the official line on Hughes was positive: "There will be no moves to push Mark out," said Chelsea's managing director Colin Hutchison. "He has been a good servant of the club and still can be."

The new signing declared himself pleased to have the transfer signed and sealed. "There was interest from other clubs but nothing official," said Casiraghi. "This was the offer that pleased me the most.

"It was important that Mr Vialli was here and that was one of the reasons I decided to come. I played with Vialli for one year in Juventus and it was a great forward line."

Like Gianfranco Zola, Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup match-winner, Casiraghi has been omitted from the Italian World Cup squad even though he has regularly featured in the national manager Cesare Maldini's plans this season. Known as the "little bison" he is a strong and hard working centre-forward.

Casiraghi has agreed a four-year contract with Vialli, even though it was the latter's arrival at Juventus which forced Casiraghi to leave Turin for Lazio in 1993. He has 44 caps and has scored 13 times for Italy.

The Newcastle manager Kenny Dalglish yesterday defended the sale of David Ginola as "out of my control" after the Prime Minister, a Magpies fan, criticised his decision to sell the French winger to Tottenham for £2 million. Tony Blair claimed that Ginola should never have been sold.

"My hands were tied," said Dalglish. "David Ginola had already made up his mind. This was made plain to me when he failed to return for pre-season training. I couldn't do anything about the situation."

The former England international David Platt may begin his transformation from player to manager at Sheffield United. The First Division club are expected to name their new manager soon and the 31-year-old Arsenal midfielder is believed to be interested in the post.

Everton have been censured by the Football Association and ordered to pay the costs of the hearing into a pitch invasion after a supporter ran on at Goodison during the side's 4–1 defeat by Aston Villa on March 28.

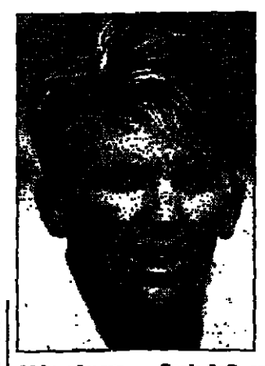
Brighton's hopes of moving to the council-owned Withdean stadium have been delayed by residents opposed to the Third Division club's plan to upgrade the ground. Brighton hope to return to their home town next season after ground-sharing with Gillingham this season.

education

Every Tuesday in the
The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Cricket

Maddy moving up the pecking order





Old and new . . . Cork, left, and Maddy are in the frame

Mike Selvey says the England selectors need to settle on a new opener before the first Test against South Africa on Thursday

ENGLISH Test cricket moves on next week. A new captain, Alec Stewart, who will keep wicket and shift down the order as a consequence, opens up new aveuues for the selectors to explore when they meet tonight to choose what will probably be 12 names for the first Test against South Africa at Edgbaston, starting on Thursday.

There will be three main subjects for discussion: a new opening batsman to partner the now in-form Mike Atherton; an all-rounder, or indeed a specialist batsman or bowler, to fill the place at seven that has been released by Stewart's dual role; and the construction of the pace attack, given that seam seems certain to dominate.

Candidates to join Atherton at the top of the order can be narrowed down to three: the two left-handers Nick Knight and Mark Butcher, both of whom have Test experience, and Darren Maddy of Leicestershire, who has not. All three are top-flight fielders.

A left-right combination has its appeal, disruptive as it can be to the line employed by opening bowlers.

Knight carries with him the credentials of being one of the foremost limited-overs batsmen in the world, and the knowledge that comes from having played county cricket not only at Edgbaston but with both Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock.

He ought to know them better than any other Englishman. But they in turn know him, and his strength in the short form of the game may be regarded as his weakness when it comes to playing Tests against high-class bowlers. Specifically, he withdraws his back foot outside leg stump, causing him to play across any ball only marginally outside off stump and to play around his front pad on the leg side.

Butcher had a mixed winter, suffering a first-ball nought batting at three in the aborted first Test in Jamaica, and a pair in the final match in Antigua, but in between batting with character to win the third Test in Trinidad. He is generally reckoned to be a more compact player than a year ago. However, there remains a question mark over his capacity to play a long Test innings, which should be a prerequisite.

Which leaves Maddy, who after a tremendous A tour — during which, by all accounts, he batted Knight into the second division — looks ready to win his first Test cap. He is well balanced at the crease, plays straight in defence, has a range of back- and front-foot shots and hits the ball witheringly hard.

> He is well-balanced at the crease, plays straight in defence and hits the ball witheringly hard

Unless the tail is to be unacceptably long, the No. 7 has to be both the fourth seamer and a capable batsman. It is the role for which Ben Hollioake has been groomed, and he made vast strides in batting and bowling in Sri Lanka on the A tour. This season, though, he has regressed, and it may be that he will make his entrance later in the series.

Instead Mark Ealham, dependable and quietly efficient without being pyrotechnic, comes into the reckoning — Stewart is a big supporter — as does Dominic Cork, who is beginning to show signs of his old aggression with the ball and promise with the bat.

There may be room for both of them in the squad: because of the nature of the Edgbaston pitch, the 12th player will be an additional seamer, strictly as cover in case of illness, rather than a second spinner to complement, probably, Robert Croft.

The return of Darren Gough to accompany Angus Fraser gives England a formidable cutting edge. Picking a third seamer is fraught with difficulty, however. Dean Headley, for example, a brave competitor, seems no nearer to solving his no-ball and associated rhythm problem than he was six months ago, and Andy Caddick's apparent refusal to acknowledge the standards of technique, performance and effort required to succeed consistently at the highest level counts against him once more.

Of alternatives other than Cork, Chris Silverwood is scarcely match-fit after injury, Ashley Cowan, who had a quiet tour of the Caribbean, has no recognised form other than his Benson and Hedges demolition of Middlesex, Ed Giddins may suffer from the whispers about his action that are doing the rounds, and Alex Tudor is a diamond that still needs polishing.

If Headley is not chosen, then the answer may be to pick both Ealham and Cork.

ENGLAND XII (probable): M A Atherton (Lancs), D L Maddy (Leics), *†A J Stewart (Surrey), G P Thorpe, N Hussain, R R Rampraskash (Middx), D G Cork (Derbys), M A Ealham (Kent), M D B Croft (Glamorgan), D Gough (Yorks), D W Headley (Kent), A R C Fraser (Middx).

Tour match: Gloucestershire v South Africans

Kirsten delivers his exact brand of chaos



Pulling his weight . . . the South Africans' stand-in captain Gary Kirsten takes a boundary off Jonathan Lewis during his century at Bristol yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: BEN RADFORD

David Foot at Nevil Road

THE tour vice-captain Gary Kirsten was in charge for this match. In the dressing-room he is known as Captain Chaos, a sobriquet bestowed on him on the basis of a brief national leadership history fraught with unfortunate distractions not always of his own making.

The title, however good-natured, is especialy ironic in the case of a player whose approach to batting is almost punctilious. He plays by the book and is prepared to wait for the bowler to err. Then he pulls, drives and hammers square on the off side.

His hundred here was his 24th, no bad record for an opener who must have known that he was destined to be psychologically shadowed by his half-brother Peter in public appreciation. This century, against a Gloucestershire side which, without Courtney Walsh, had hoped to bat first on an easy pitch, was virtually flawless. Kirsten is elegant neither in stance nor in the execution of his shots but there could not have been a more reassuring prelude to next week's Edgbaston Test.

The left-hander hit 21 fours before, leaning on the back foot to repeat a boundary off Martyn Ball from the previous ball, he chopped to slip. It was his first misjudgment. It had been a long wait; the last time a South African tourist, Gordon White, scored a hundred at Bristol was in 1907.

Three thousand West Country spectators must have been disappointed that, in addition to Hansie Cronje's absence, South Africa's illustrious new-ball practitioners Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock were also resting. It was clearly felt they needed no dry run for Birmingham. "They can find their rhythm easily enough in the nets," Kirsten said. "We've had such a busy 12 months and our bowlers deserve their break."

Indeed rather a lot of the better-known players were absentees: Jack Russell also stepped down, no doubt to the gratitude of Reggie Williams, loyalty personified, who returned as deputy for this summer when it was discovered that Chris Reed had plans other than to stay with the county which had nurtured him.

The tourists finished on 337 for seven, no one scoring more attractively than Jonty Rhodes who cracked along with nine fours in his 59, still conveying within the comparative anonymity of his headgear the innate enjoyment that he brings to the game.

The first wickets had gone after an hour's play when Gerry Liebenberg went to second slip. There was little sign of movement in the track, even if Mark Alleyne extracted sufficient to dismiss him and then Jacques Kallis, taken at the wicket by Williams who after lunch stumped Rhodes as he went after Ball. If the match enhanced Rhodes's immediate Test prospects, it hardly did the same for Brian McMillan, caught at square leg after a circumspect 42-minute stay.

Gloucestershire's bowlers persevered rather than threatened to penetrate, Alleyne permuting as best he could. The skipper had his third success with Mark Boucher but this was followed by hearty late blows from the fledgling fast bowler Nantie Haywood as he partnered Lance Klusener.

Scoreboard

Britannic Assurance County Championship

MIDDLESEX v GLAMORGAN

Lord's Glamorgan (2pts) have scored 293 for five in their first innings against Middlesex (2).

GLAMORGAN
First Innings
S P James c Shah b Hewitt 79
†A D Shaw lbw b Hewitt 0
A Dale b Rampraksh 38
*M P Maynard c Hewitt b Fraser 25
P A Cottey not out 73
M J Powell c Brown b Rampraksh 43
R D B Croft not out 18
Extras (lb7, nb10) 17
Total (for 5, 104 overs) 293
Fall of wickets: 0, 107, 137, 151, 237.
To bat: Wagar Younis, S D Thomas, O A Cosker, S L Watkin.
Bowlings: Fraser 23–8–62–1; Hewitt 21–4–59–2; Blanchett 15–1–56–0; Tufnell 31–8–76–0; Rampraksh 14–2–33–2.
MIDDLESEX: J L Langer, R A Kettleborough, *M R Ramprakash, M W Gatting, O A Shah, D C Nash, †K R Brown, I N Blanchett, J P Hewitt, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnell.
Umpires: V A Holder and G I Burgess.

SURREY v KENT

The Oval Surrey (3pts) have scored 314 for nine in their first innings against Kent (4).

SURREY
First Innings
M A Butcher c Marsh b Hooper 51
A J Stewart c Hooper b Patel 86
G P Thorpe c Patel b Hooper 29
*A J Hollioake b Hooper 33
A D Brown b Hooper 0
B C Hollioake c & b Hooper 4
†J N Batty c Marsh b Hooper 33
J D K Salisbury not out 46
Saqlain Mushtaq lbw b Headley 9
A J Tudor lbw b Headley 6
M P Bicknell not out 0
Extras (b7, lb10, nb2) 19
Total (for 9, 111 overs) 314
Fall of wickets: 142, 142, 193, 193, 205, 212, 294, 296, 314.
Bowlings: Headley 14–5–30–2; McCague 9–1–35–0; Ealham 11–5–16–0; Patel 40–9–125–1; Fleming 4–2–8–0; Hooper 33–4–83–6.
KENT: D P Fulton, R W T Key, T R Ward, C L Hooper, A P Wells, M A Ealham, M V Fleming, *†S A Marsh, M M Patel, M J McCague, D W Headley.
Umpires: B Dudleston and R Palmer.

WORCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

Worcester Worcestershire (4pts) have scored 353 for nine in their first innings against Sussex (4).

WORCESTERSHIRE
First Innings
W P C Weston c Adams b Lewry 14
V S Solanki c Humphries b Kirtley 22
G A Hick c Adams b Robinson 104
G R Haynes c Adams b Lewry 20
*T M Moody c Adams b Kirtley 45
D A Leatherdale c A A Khan b Bevan 39
†S J Rhodes lbw b Lewry 28
S R Lampitt not out 31
R K Illingworth b Lewry 0
P J Newport lbw b Bevan 13
A Sheriyar not out 0
Extras (b4, lb4, w6, nb14) 28
Total (for 9, 104 overs) 353
Fall of wickets: 32, 73, 134, 224, 258, 293, 321, 321, 353.
Bowlings: Lewry 24–5–104–4; Kirtley 20–5–47–2; Robinson 24–8–59–1; A A Khan 10–4–43–0; Newell 13–4–35–0; Bevan 13–4–49–2.
SUSSEX: W G Khan, C J Adams, M T E Peirce, *M G Bevan, J R Carpenter, K Newell, †S Humphries, A A Khan, R J Kirtley, J D Lewry, M A Robinson.
Umpires: A A Jones and G Sharp.

DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

Chesterfield: Derbyshire (4pts) trail Leicestershire (0) by 175 runs with eight first-innings wickets standing.

LEICESTERSHIRE
First Innings
V J Wells c Aldred b Dean 27
D L Maddy c Aldred b DeFreitas 7
I J Sutcliffe c Krikken b Aldred 82
B F Smith lbw b Cork 25
P V Simmons lbw b Cork 10
A Habib not out 39
†P A Nixon lbw b Cork 20
*C C Lewis c Aldred b Cork 0
J Ormond b Cork 0
A D Mullally c Krikken b DeFreitas 0
M T Brimson b DeFreitas 3
Extras (lb7, w2, nb24) 33
Total (82.1 overs) 246
Fall of wickets: 34, 69, 158, 172, 174, 228, 235, 236, 246.
Bowlings: Cork 26–7–72–5; DeFreitas 25.1–3–61–3; Aldred 17–4–42–1; Dean 12–0–44–1.

DERBYSHIRE
First Innings
M J Slater c Smith b Ormond 24
A S Rollins c Brimson b Ormond 0
T A Tweats not out 22
P Aldred not out 1
Extras (b4, lb2, w6, nb12) 24
Total (for 2, 19 overs) 71
Fall of wickets: 14, 63.
To bat: K J Barnett, M E Cassar, *D G Cork, P A J DeFreitas, †K M Krikken, M R May, K J Dean.
Bowlings: Mullally 7–1–33–0; Ormond 8–4–20–2; Lewis 4–1–12–0.
Umpires: J W Holder and M J Harris.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DURHAM

Trent Bridge: Durham (4pts) trail Nottinghamshire (2) by 134 runs with six first-innings wickets standing.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
First Innings
M P Dowman c Speak b Harmison 13
R T Robinson b Wood 0
U Afzaal c Collingwood b Betts 25
G F Archer b Foster 11
N A Gie b Betts 20
C M Tolley lbw b Foster 7
P J Franks c Speight b Betts 66
†C M W Read lbw b Betts 0
*P A Strang c & b Betts 13
M N Bowen not out 9
A R Oram c Speight b Wood 1
Extras (b9, lb3, w20, nb14) 45
Total (68.3 overs) 211
Fall of wickets: 9, 24, 54, 68, 85, 178, 179, 199, 206.
Bowlings: Betts 21–7–59–5; Wood 18.3–5–50–2; Harmison 16–5–57–1; Foster 9–4–26–2; Phillips 4–0–7–0.

DURHAM
First Innings
J J B Lewis lbw b Franks 15
M A Gough c Archer b Tolley 23
N J Speak c Archer b Tolley 16
*T C Boon lbw b Strang 4
P D Collingwood not out 3
J Wood not out 2
Extras (lb2, w2) 4
Total (for 4, 37 overs) 67
Fall of wickets: 23, 55, 60, 64.
To bat: †M P Speight, M J Foster, N C Phillips, M M Betts, S J Harmison.
Bowlings: Bowen 9–7–7–0; Franks 9–2–25–1; Dowman 3–1–7–0; Oram 5–2–12–0; Tolley 9–4–13–2; Strang 2–1–1–1.
Umpires: J H Hampshire and P Willey.

First test

(Third day)
Colombo: New Zealand 305 (S Fleming 78, A Parore 57; Muralitharan 5–80) and 283–5 (S Fleming 106no, C McMillan 94no). Sri Lanka 285 (R Kaluwitharana 72, M Jayawardena 52; Cairns 3–59).

Tour match

GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOUTH AFRICA

Bristol: The South Africans have scored 337 for seven in their first innings against Gloucestershire.

SOUTH AFRICA
First Innings
G F J Liebenberg c Ball b Alleyne 22
*G Kirsten c Alleyne b Ball 125
J H Kallis c Williams b Alleyne 7
D J Cullinan b Smith 20
J N Rhodes st Williams b Ball 59
S M McMillan c Hancock b Ball 3
†M V Boucher c Macmillan b Alleyne 20
L Klusener not out 33
M Hayward not out 33
Extras (lb4, w1, nb10) 15
Total (for 7, 104 overs) 337
Fall of wickets: 48, 72, 112, 208, 226, 259, 265.
To bat: P R Adams, M Ntini.
Bowlings: Smith 16–3–67–1; Lewis 20–3–65–0; Averis 14–3–56–0; Alleyne 21–8–49–3; Ball 22–10–45–3; Hancock 8–1–24–0; Windows 1–0–7–0.
GLOUCESTERSHIRE: T H C Hancock, G I Macmillan, D R Newson, *M W Alleyne, M G N Windows, R J Cunliffe, M C J Ball, J Lewis, †R C J Williams, J M M Averis, A M Smith.
Umpires: K J Lyons and N T Plews.

Other match

OXFORD UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

The Parks: Yorkshire trail Oxford University by 241 runs with nine first-innings wickets standing.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY
First Innings
J A N McWhirter b Sidebottom b Hoggard 51
D R Lockhart c Wood b Hoggard 35
*J A G Fulton c Vaughan b Hamilton 0
B W Byrne b Hamilton 10
C G R Lightfoot b Vaughan 4
R Garland c Wood b Vaughan 28
J A Claughton c White b Vaughan 45
D J Eadie not out 66
†J F B Barnes not out 17
Extras (lb7, nb4) 11
Total (for 7 dec, 94 overs) 280
Fall of wickets: 37, 49, 69, 86, 116, 195, 230.
Did not bat: D P Mather, S H Khan.
Bowlings: Hoggard 20–5–58–2; Sidebottom 12–4–27–0; Hamilton 16–6–25–2; Stemp 24–8–54–0; Vaughan 22–5–89–3.

YORKSHIRE
First Innings
A McGrath b Khan 2
M P Vaughan not out 11
*D Byas not out 4
Extras (w2) 2
Total (for 1, 5 overs) 19
Fall of wickets: 17.
To bat: M J Wood, C White, B Parker, †C A Chapman, G M Hamilton, R J Sidebottom, M J Hoggard, R D Stemp.
Bowlings: Mather 3–0–9–0; Khan 2–0–10–1.
Umpires: N G Cowley and R A White.

Second XI Championship

Abbotsholme School: Derbyshire 494–9 dec (S G Stubbings 76, M R May 221no, R M S Weston 84, I D Blackwell 46no). Warks 248 (J Troughton 45, R G East 45) and 249–5 (T Frost 67, D T Quiller 51, K J Piper 68, J Troughton 45). Match drawn.
Kidderminster: Gloucs 553–7 dec and 226–6 dec (P S Lanenbury 57, R J Cunliffe 53 retired hurt). Worc 420 and 320 (N Batson 94, S W K Ellis 63, Trainor 5–122, Gannon 4–87). Gloucs won by 40 runs.
Middlesbrough: Surrey 98 and 206 (J A Knott 56). Kent 221 (M J Walker 87) and 84–2. Kent won by eight wickets.
Milton Keynes: Hampshire 292–7 dec (P R Whittaker 111; Boswell 5–85) and 173–9 dec (D A Kenway 89; Snape 4–34). Northants 203 (R R Montgomerie 49no; Morris 4–59) and 266–8 (R J Warren 52). Northants won by two wickets.

County Championship: Worcs v Sussex

Hick clicks off his 99th

David Hopps at New Road

A POIGNANT little ceremony is due to take place later this summer; who knows — perhaps it will be tomorrow. It concerns Graeme Hick's 100th first-class century and beneath a fitting sense of achievement will be a genuine sense of loss.

Hick logged his 99th hundred yesterday and, like so many flawlessly packaged for Worcestershire in the championship, it was assembled with the regulation and dispassionate air of a production-line worker.

Against a Sussex attack which seemed mildly overawed by his presence, Hick played with the calm authority of a batsman whose game is in tune, as three hundreds in his last five innings can testify.

Afterwards there was the regulation interview, conducted entirely on auto-pilot, in which Hick expressed the view that he would "quite like to get the 100th in a Test match". This might have been interpreted, at the age of 32, as his first venture into irony, were it not that his tongue could not find his cheek without stopping three times to ask the way.

The Cornhill Test series against South Africa begins at Edgbaston next week and Hick is the most prolific batsman of the age, but there was no England selector present yesterday to wonder whether he might yet add to the four of the 99 centuries that have been made at Test level.

No selector was there to watch him settle in easily against a seam attack that allowed him too much width, no selector to marvel once more at the immense power that seems to lie in reserve, no selector to see Amer Khan's leg-breaks provide a charitable route to his hundred as the two full tosses which eased him into the nineties were followed by two short balls which he whiplashed through the covers.

A hundred hundreds has become something that Hick "would quite like to get out of the way", something that "maybe will bring me more satisfaction later in life".

It will be a considerable statistical triumph and is already talked of as a certainty — only Denis Compton and Don Bradman will have done it quicker, and only Walter Hammond will have been younger — yet the day that bestows it will possess a certain emptiness.

Only James Kirtley, summoning up some away swing in a second morning spell, occasionally troubled him. He fell for 104, from 134 balls, chopping Mark Robinson to the alert Chris Adams at backward point.

For a man recovering from a broken little finger, sustained in the second one-day international a week ago, Adams's catching was of the highest class. He took four in Worcestershire's 353 for nine, the other three at slip, including a calm juggle to remove Philip Weston and a rapid one-handed dive to his right to dismiss Tom Moody for 48.

Moody had laboured for half an hour before getting off the mark but he drove commandingly thereafter and was threatening when he fell to Kirtley. At 256 for five some lower-order patching was necessary to carry Hick's work to fruition.

Those confused by this season's fixture list, when all kinds of matches pop up in the unlikeliest places, might care to suspect the influence of Lord MacLaurin, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board. A man with supermarket training will keep moving stuff around the shelves to keep people interested.

Middlesex v Glamorgan

Classy Cottey

Paul Weaver at Lord's

NO ONE took Glamorgan seriously last season, until they won the championship, and now no one is taking them seriously again. It must be making them very cross in the Principality but the players seem happy to chug along in mid-table for the moment.

They have looked a little ordinary this youthful summer, especially in the one-day game where until Sunday they had won only once in seven outings, and that against Ireland.

The personnel are virtually the same, although Hugh Morris has been difficult to replace at the top of the order and, with the captain Matthew Maynard out injured for most of May, their batting has looked shapeless.

They last triumphed here in 1954 and have won only six of their 76 championship encounters. Perhaps Mark Ramprakash took pity on them when he chose to field, for there was nothing in the pitch to warrant his decision.

Glamorgan ended the day soundly placed at 298 for five, but this was a colourless day and it was difficult to guess what the two watching selectors may have taken from it. Mike Gatting looked on from slip and Graham Gooch brooded in the Mound Stand.

Angus Fraser, Robert Croft and Ramprakash would appear to have one foot in the Test squad already. Of the others Phil Tufnell is out of fashion at the moment and even a patient innings of 79 is unlikely to further the cause of Stephen James.

At tea the score was a disappointing 206 from 72 overs and both teams appeared to have lost interest as they were off the field for 23 minutes. When they returned Tony Cottey played the best strokes of the day and was 73 not out at the close. But even he was subdued by his own standards.

The wicketkeeper Adrian Shaw was pushed up to open but was leg-before to James Hewitt, second ball. Adrian Dale scored a 99-ball 38 before he played all round a ball from Ramprakash, who appeared to be attempting to justify his decision.

Then James, at 137, drove with the bat some way from his body and was caught at backward point by Owais Shah. He had batted for only 12 minutes under three hours and faced 131 deliveries.

Even Middlesex supporters welcomed the sight of Maynard, one of the game's more majestic strikers. But this was his first match since May Day and he fretted somewhat uncharacteristically before, having made 25, hooking Fraser to Hewitt at long leg.

Mike Powell was another batsman for whom the runs came with difficulty. In a little under two hours he made 43 before presenting Ramprakash with his second wicket. Glamorgan were 237 for five and suddenly the choice to bowl was looking a reasonable one. But the last hour was Glamorgan's.

Australia's Pakistan tour in doubt

AUSTRALIA's tour to Pakistan in September is under threat after the Canberra government's decision to impose sanctions because of this week's nuclear tests.

Australia are due to play three Tests and a one-day series in Pakistan and Malcolm Speed, the cricket board's chief executive, said it was too early to predict the fate of the tour. "We will be talking to the Department of Foreign Affairs in the next few days to get their opinion," he said.

The foreign minister, Alexander Downer, said the government did not want to intervene. "We don't want the team to become embroiled," he added.

Cricket
News and Scores
0930 16 13 +
Counties update

Derbyshire	24	Middlesex	33
Durham	25	Northants.	34
Essex	26	Nottingham	35
Glamorgan	27	Somerset	36
Gloucs.	28	Surrey	37
Hampshire	29	Sussex	38
Kent	30	Warwicks.	39
Lancs	31	Worcester	40
Leics.	32	Yorkshire	41

Complete county scores
0930 16 13 23
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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Kempton tonight

	RON COX	TOP FORM
6.20	Foll Spate	Foll Spate
6.50	Vola Via	Philistar
7.20	Prevalence (nb)	Prevalence
7.50	Midnight Escape	Cretan Gift
8.20	Shiva	Nasayem
8.50	Yet Again	Yet Again

Virtually flat, right-handed triangular course of 1m5f with separate 1¼m Jubilee Course. Straight 6f.
Going: Good, round course Gd-Sft in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: High numbers best over 5f.
Long distance travellers: Bishops Court (7.50), Mrs J R Ramsden, Sandhutton, N Yorks, 236 miles; Boater (6.50), B R Millman, Kentisbeare, Devon, 158 miles; One Singer (7.20), Cretan Gift (7.50) & Tallulah Belle (8.50), N P Littmoden, Wolverhampton, W Midlands, 129 miles; Admire (7.20), Poly Blue (7.20) & Yet Again (8.50), Miss Gay Kelleway, Whitcombe, Dorset, 120 miles; Queen of Shannon (6.50), A W Carroll, Flyford Flavell, H'ford, 104 miles.
Seven day winners: None
Blinkered first time: 8.50 Mystic Ridge. **Visored:** None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing.

6.20 FUSION NIGHTS AT THE JUBILEE CLUB MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
7f £3,810 (17 declared)

1 (16) 4- First Consul (302) M Stoute 9-0 — J Reid 86
2 (1) Forgiorl C Benstead 9-0 — G Butler —
3 (7) 2 Foll Spate (26) R Charlton 9-0 — T Sprake ●90
4 (8) 0 Lavaca River (13) P Howling 9-0 — S Whitworth —
5 (12) 0- Mach One (238) Sir M Prescott 9-0 — Claire Lund (7) —
6 (13) Mustif B Hanbury 9-0 — J Weaver —
7 (15) 00 Norman Archer (13) V Soane 9-0 — K Hopkins (7) —
8 (11) 234-2 Pass The Rest (30) (BF) J Noseda 9-0 — W R Swinburn 84
9 (17) 0- Primafiorio (239) Sir M Prescott 9-0 — C Nutter —
10 (2) Ritual Run R Hannon 9-0 — W J O'Connor —
11 (3) 0- Temeraire (204) Mrs A Perrett 9-0 — R Hughes 75
12 (14) 4 Thats Life (7) T Mills 9-0 — J Fortune 88
13 (4) Wajori J Gosden 9-0 — W Ryan —
14 (8) Abundance J G Smyth-Osbourne 8-9 — R Perham —
15 (3) 6 Fredora (15) M Blanshard 8-9 — J Quinn 89
16 (10) 40- Princess Gloria (312) M Ryan 8-9 — G Carter —
17 (5) Queens Dagger J Gosden 8-9 — L Dettori —

Betting: 2-1 Foll Spate, 9-2 First Consul, 6-1 Queens Dagger, 7-1 Pass The Rest, Wajori, 8-1 Thats Life, Fredora, 10-1 Ritual Run

6.50 FLORENCE NAGLE GIRL APPRENTICES' HANDICAP — SKY
1m 1f £3,139 (12 declared)

1 (7) 45-000 Vola Via (16) (CD) I Balding 5-10-0 — Leanne Masterton 89
2 (2) 013144 Philistar (20) (D) K Burke 5-10-0 — Kimberley Hart ●90
3 (9) 35-230 Boater (20) B Millman 4-9-11 — Cheryl Nosworthy (5) 85
4 (10) 0246-3 Twin Time (12) J King 4-9-3 — Victoria Appleby 85
5 (6) 6000-6 Present Situation (91) (D) Lord Huntingdon 7-9-2 — Aimee Cook 88
6 (12) 40-136 Jibereen (14) P Howling 6-8-11 — Jo Hanson 85
7 (8) 35003- Soden (159) T Mills 4-8-11 — Lisa Hackett (5) 86
8 (1) 0000-0 Classtown Flyer (12) N Berry 4-8-9 — Emily Joyce 86
9 (4) 00-036 With A Will (12) H Candy 4-8-9 — Sarah Jackson 87
10 (3) 0500-4 Queen Of Shannon (26) A Carroll 10-8-1 — Claire West 80
11 (5) /00-00 Beauchamp Knight (8) H Candy 5-7-10 — Nicola Wright (5) 80
12 (11) 006656 Fancy Design (12) P Mitchell 5-7-10 — Clare Lund ★ —

Betting: 5-1 Philistar, 11-2 Twin Time, 6-1 Boater, Jibereen, 7-1 With A Will, 8-1 Present Situation, 10-1 Vola Via, Soden

7.20 AMBITION HANDICAP 3YO — SKY
7f £3,794 (17 declared)

1 (10) 1-1104 Diamond Drill (17) (D) P Makin 9-7 — S Sanders 86
2 (13) 100-26 Poly Blue (14) Miss G Kelleway 9-6 — K Fallon 87
3 (11) 110-00 Heatswood (25) R Hannon 9-4 — Dane O'Neill 85
4 (4) 0100-0 Admire (49) Miss G Kelleway 9-3 — J Fortune 84
5 (3) 24-01 Prevalence (13) (CD) J Noseda 9-3 — W R Swinburn ●90
6 (1) 610 Queen Of Scotland (25) (CD) M Channon 9-1 — Candy Morris 86
7 (7) 5100-0 Rol de Danse (37) (G) J Hills 9-1 — L Dettori 85
8 (15) 66-0 Dilkusha (15) B Meehan 9-0 — R Hughes 88
9 (12) 652-06 Al Mabrook (7) K Mahdi 8-13 — W J O'Connor 87
10 (16) 000605 Smooth Sailing (18) K McAuliffe 8-10 — J Reid 85
11 (5) 280-40 Moonstone (6) A Jarvis 8-10 — D Sweeney 86
12 (8) 520-00 Acid Test (16) (D) W Muir 8-9 — T Sprake 87
13 (9) 145000 One Singer (8) (D) N Littmoden 8-8 — J Weaver ★ 85
14 (2) 600- Midnight Song (229) J Jenkins 8-4 — C Lowther 79
15 (14) 00-00 Minjara (7) A P Jones 8-4 — S Whitworth —
16 (17) 500-00 Saudi (12) P Cole 8-3 — T Quinn ★ 87
17 (6) 050-2 Jack Ruby (33) P Gilligan 8-2 — J Quinn 86

Betting: 3-1 Prevalence, 6-1 Diamond Drill, 7-1 Jack Ruby, 10-1 Poly Blue, Queen Of Scotland, Rol De Danse, Saudi, 12-1 Al Mabrook

7.50 RING & BRYMER ACHILLES STAKES — SKY
5f £10,372 (9 declared)

1 (4) 3435-0 Averti (28) (D) W Muir 7-9-10 — K Fallon 86
2 (8) 122652 Cretan Gift (8) (D) N Littmoden 7-9-10 — J Weaver ★ ●90
3 (9) 2103-6 Midnight Escape (21) (D) C Wall 5-8-10 — S Sanders 82
4 (2) 21-504 Dashing Blue (16) (D) I Balding 5-9-7 — L Dettori 89
5 (7) 424-03 Bishops Court (21) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-3 — J Fortune 88
6 (1) 40-642 Brave Edge (17) (CD) R Hannon 7-9-3 — Dane O'Neill 89
7 (3) 2266-3 Cortachy Castle (15) (D) B Meehan 3-8-9 — W R Swinburn 83
8 (5) 3210-0 Amigey (11) (D) S Dow 3-8-8 — T Quinn 84
9 (6) 14- Bayleaf (238) (D) R Johnson Houghton 3-8-4 — D Harrison 87

Betting: 7-2 Dashing Blue, 9-2 Bishops Court, 5-1 Cortachy Castle, 6-1 Brave Edge, 7-1 Averti, Cretan Gift, 10-1 Bayleaf, 14-1 Midnight Escape

8.20 LORNE STEWART MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 3YO — SKY
1m 1f £3,680 (14 declared)

1 (14) 5642- Acebo Lyons (217) A Jarvis 8-11 — D Sweeney 79
2 (8) 5 Alya (8) P Cole 8-11 — T Quinn —
3 (6) Angel Eyes W Muir 8-11 — J Reid —
4 (4) Cosmic Girl Miss B Sanders 8-11 — J Quinn —
5 (13) 00- Fifth Emerald (177) C Wall 8-11 — S Sanders —
6 (11) 0 Ismail (28) G Lewis 8-11 — Paul Eddery —
7 (1) 3 Island Story (29) Lord Huntingdon 8-11 — D Harrison 78
8 (2) 34- La Grande (210) L Cumani 8-11 — R Ffrench 80
9 (10) 3 Nasayem (28) S bin Suroor 8-11 — L Dettori ●90
10 (7) Oak Vintage J Gosden 8-11 — W Ryan —
11 (3) 0- Queen's Hat (324) B Hanbury 8-11 — J Stack —
12 (9) 2 Shalama (19) M Stoute 8-11 — W R Swinburn 84
13 (5) Shiva H Cecil 8-11 — K Fallon —
14 (12) 6- Wosaita (245) J Dunlop 8-11 — T Sprake 70

Betting: 5-2 Nasayem, 7-2 La Grande, 5-1 Shalama, Shiva, 8-1 Island Story, 14-1 Oak Vintage, Wosaita

8.50 BLACKBIRD HANDICAP
1m 4f £3,501 (8 declared)

1 (6) 000304 Secret Ballot (7) (D) K Mahdi 4-9-10 — W J O'Connor 84
2 (4) 42/4 Slip The Net (47) P Cole 4-9-9 — T Quinn —
3 (7) 430-63 Tellion (25) J Jenkins 4-9-1 — C Lowther 83
4 (8) 1-2013 Tallulah Belle (8) (C) (BF) N Littmoden 5-8-13 — J Weaver 88
5 (2) 3-1000 Statajack (8) (C) (D) D Elsworth 10-8-12 — ★ 85
6 (1) 0-0000 Mystic Ridge (15) B Curley 4-8-5 — J Quinn ★ —
7 (5) 513-21 Yet Again (140) (D) Miss G Kelleway 6-8-5 — R Ffrench ●90
8 (3) 0050-6 Shining Dancer (27) (G) S Dow 6-8-3 — G Carter —

Betting: 3-1 Tallulah Belle, 7-2 Secret Ballot, 9-2 Yet Again, 11-2 Tellion, 7-1 Statajack, 10-1 Slip The Net, Shining Dancer, 12-1 Mystic Ridge.
● Tallulah Belle will not run if there is significant rain.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
Pat Eddery	40	191	20.9	+20.56	R Hannon	31	241	12.9	-8.55
J Reid	29	153	19	+31.18	M R Stoute	16	88	18.2	-8.33
T Quinn	29	218	13.3	-18.26	J L Dunlop	15	115	13.2	-26.09
L Dettori	17	108	15.7	-37.39	P F I Cole	13	95	13.7	-0.84
R Cochrane	17	129	13.2	+11.83	R Charlton	12	61	19.7	+18.74
R Hughes	15	74	20.3	+103.21	H R A Cecil	11	59	18.6	-8.02
M Hills	14	103	13.6	+6.83	I A Balding	10	78	12.8	-18.75

Chantilly tomorrow BBC2

3.20 THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES PRIX DU JOCKEY CLUB
1m 4f £252,525 (13 declared)

1 (10) 22-211 Prolix (24) B Hills(UK) 9-2 — D Holland 88
2 (3) 433-62 Daymarti (21) A De Royer-Dupre 9-2 — G Mosse 82
3 (8) 141-5 Thief Of Hearts (28) A Fabre 9-2 — O Peslier 85
4 (2) 0-2023 Vezing (17) P Demercastel 9-2 — T Gillet 78
5 (7) 1-124 Roll Abi (28) (D) F Belmont 9-2 — T Thulliez 75
6 (11) 112-4 Mudeer (21) S bin Suroor(UK) 9-2 — L Dettori 81
7 (6) 511 Sayarshan (28) (C) P Bary 9-2 — D Boeuf 84
8 (12) 221 Dream Well (17) (D) P Bary 9-2 — C Asmussen 78
9 (9) 3-13 Makaruka (28) J Cunnington 9-2 — Pat Eddery 78
10 (4) 1-12 Sestino (28) Mme C Head 9-2 — O Doleuze 83
11 (5) 14-11 Croco Rouge (27) P Bary 9-2 — S Guillot 86
12 (1) 1-1 Mountjoy (41) (CD) Jm De Chevigny 9-2 — F Sanchez 72
13 (13) 1311-1 Saratoga Springs (18) A P O'Brien(IRE) 9-2 — M J Kinane ●90

Betting: 9-4 Saratoga Springs, 100-3 Croco Rouge, 6-1 Sayarshan, 8-1 Daymarti, 10-1 Dream Well, Mudeer, Sestino, 14-1 Prolix, Thief Of Hearts, 16-1 Makaruka, 40-1 Roll Abi, 50-1 Mountjoy, 66-1 Vezing.

Results

AYR

2.20 (6f): 1, DAY-BOY, K Fallon (12-1); 2, Three Green Leaves (7-1); 3, Fiori (10-1). 8-11 fav Ace of Parkes. 8 ran 1¾, 4. (Denys Smith) Tote: £12.30; £2.50, £1.30, £1.90. Dual F: £16.60. Trio: £44.60. CSF: £83.81. NR: Haystacks.
2.50 (6f): 1, ASTRAC, Alex Greaves (9-2); 2, Ryefield (5-1); 3, Johayro (20-1). 4-1 fav Tiler. 8 ran 1¾, 2. (D Nicholls) Tote: £5.60; £2.50, £1.90, £3.20. Dual F: £19.70. CSF: £21.22. Tricast: £303.51.
3.20 (1m 2f): 1, ORMELIE, K Fallon (11-4); 2, Milling (7-4 fav); 3, Come Up Smiling (5-2). 6 ran Nk, 2. (P Chapple-Hyam) Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £1.20, £1.40. Dual F: £3.80. CSF: £6.29.
3.50 (1m 2f): 1, YAVANA'S PACE, D Holland (7-2 fav); 2, Begorrat (9-2); 3, Top Jem (9-2). 9 ran 1¾, 1¾. (M Johnston) Tote: £4.00; £2.20, £1.30, £3.20. Dual F: £9.00. Trio: £8.00. CSF: £15.79. Tricast: £58.61.
4.20 (1m 5f 13yds): 1, SLIPSTREAM, D Holland (6-4 fav); 2, Montrave (9-1); 3, Go With The Wind (9-1). 7 ran 7, 9. (R Guest) Tote: £1.90; £2.00, £3.70. Dual F: £29.80. CSF: £12.38.
4.50 (1m): 1, THE MUNRO'S, D Holland (5-1); 2, Rosa Royale (5-2 fav); 3, Celebration Cake (14-1). 11 ran 8, 3. (J Goldie) Tote: £7.00; £2.20, £1.10, £2.60. Dual F: £4.20. Trio: £17.70. CSF: £18.29. Tricast: £162.71.
PLACEPOT: £95.80.
QUADPOT: £4.20.
JACKPOT: £36,931.90.

CATTERICK

2.00 (5f): 1, TAMARA, D Harrison (12-1); 2, Acerris (7-2 fav); 3, Pride of Loudubh (8-1). 13 ran 1¾, 1. (J Bethell) Tote: £19.40; £4.30, £1.40, £2.40. Dual F: £42.50. Trio: £103.40. CSF: £51.39.
2.30 (5f 212yds): 1, PIGEON, T Williams (5-1); 2, Hayburner (20-1); 3, French Pride (20-1). 100-30 fav Charlies Bride. 14 ran 4, 1¾. (D Barker) Tote: £4.30; £1.40, £5.70, £14.00. Dual F: £104.40. Trio: £264.70. CSF: £101.30. Tricast: £1,148.13.
3.00 (1m 5f 175yds): 1, GOOD HAND, J Fortune (11-4); 2, Brodessa (9-4 fav); 3, Hillzah (3-1). 8 ran 7, 13. (S Kettlewell) Tote: £4.40; £1.10, £1.70, £1.40. Dual F: £3.70. CSF: £9.09. NR: Sabu.
3.30 (1m 3f 214yds): 1, ETERNITY, D Harrison (5-1); 2, Aldwych Arrow (9-4); 3, Sack Boldness (2-1 fav). 4 ran Shd, 10. (J Fanshawe) Tote: £4.20. Dual F: £7.00. CSF: £14.94.
4.00 (6f): 1, PALACEGATE JACK, C Lowther (11-4 fav); 2, Silk Cottage (7-2); 3, Insider Trader (4-1). 10 ran Nk, 1. (J Berry) Tote: £3.60; £1.80, £1.50, £2.60. Dual F: £5.70. trio: £9.50. CSF: £12.60.
4.30 (6f): 1, ARJAN, C Lowther (5-1); 2, Pleasure Time (4-1); 3, Superbit (6-1). 9-4 fav Maltesmia. 10 ran 5, ¾. (J Berry) Tote: £6.40; £2.30, £1.50, £2.80. Dual F: £20.40. Trio: £28.30. CSF: £24.91. Tricast: £119.89. NR: Just Dissident.
PLACEPOT: £313.60.
QUADPOT: £15.60.

WOLVERHAMPTON

2.10 (1m 100yds): 1, CHEERFUL GROOM, Mrs S Bosley (8-1); 2, Mr Nevermind (8-1); 3, Italian Symphony (4-1). 3-1 fav Be Warned. 13 ran 3, nk. (D Shaw) Tote: £7.80; £1.90, £1.90, £3.10. Dual F: £42.10. Trio: £111.10. CSF: £48.45. Tricast: £198.97.
2.40 (1m 1f 79yds): 1, BONGO, J F Egan (7-2); 2, China Castle (4-1); 3, Ki Chi Saga (5-2 fav). 13 ran 8, 1¾. (P Evans) Tote: £7.60. £3.10, £2.90, £1.10. Dual F: £8.30. Trio: £4.80. CSF: £15.77.
3.10 (6f): 1, FIVE OF SPADES, F Norton (16-1); 2, First Maite (3-1 fav); 3, King of Peru (13-2). 12 ran 3¾, 4. (R Fahey) Tote: £28.60; £9.00, £1.80, £2.00. Dual F: £78.70. Trio: £192.60. CSF: £59.28. Tricast: £333.44. NR: Mallia.
3.40 (6f): 1, NO WARNING, G Duffield (6-11 fav); 2, Maybe Special (7-4); 3, Gold Heaser (8-1). 8 ran 3, shd. (Sir Mark Prescott) Tote: £2.10; £1.20, £1.10, £1.50. Dual F: £1.50. CSF: £2.38.
4.10 (1m 4f): 1, STATE APPROVAL, N Callan (30-100 fav); 2, Avanti Blue (6-1); 3, Felony (25-1). 8 ran 20, 1¾. (Miss S Wilton) Tote: £1.30; £1.00, £1.60, £2.90. Dual F: £2.30. CSF: £1.98.
4.40 (7f): 1, ZOBAIDA, P Robinson (11-2); 2, River Ensign (10-1); 3, Arbenig (7-2 fav). 12 ran 5, ¾. (M Jarvis) Tote: £6.50; £2.00, £2.90, £2.30. Dual F: £41.90. Trio: £151.80. CSF: £58.89. Tricast: £210.38.
PLACEPOT: £19.30.
QUADPOT: £4.50.

● KIEREN Fallon and Darryll Holland, currently occupying first and second positions in the jockeys' table, helped themselves to five of the six races at Ayr yesterday. At the start of racing Fallon had 58 winners to Holland's 58 but by the close of play it was 61 apiece as Holland replied to the former's 48-1 double with a 66-1 hat-trick in the final three races.

● Evening results on page 23.

Racing

Coronet to wear sprint crown

Ron Cox

SPRINT fans are well catered for this afternoon. with valuable events taking place at Newmarket, Lingfield and Kempton. The Caffrey's Irish Ale Handicap at Lingfield may not be the most competitive of them, but *provides* the best bet of the day in the shape of Coronet.

With just two outings to her name, the latest a smooth win at Nottingham, Alec Stewart's filly is totally unexposed and her recent home work suggests she is well on the way to becoming a useful performer.

Coronet (4.55) does not seem to be taking on anything special here and connections will be disappointed if she fails to oblige off a mark of 85.

The Nicholson Graham & Jones Leisure Stakes features the return to sprinting of Arkadian Hero and Tamarisk after their failure to stay a mile in the 2,000 Guineas. The former looks to face a stiff task with a 10lb penalty, but Tamarisk will be hard to beat if back to something like his best.

That remains to be seen, and the value option could be **Rambling Bear (4.25)**. He faced stiff tasks with a penalty in this sort of company last season, but is better treated this time round and proved his well-being with a fluent win at Goodwood recently.

The richest sprint of the day, and undoubtedly the trickiest, is the Coral Sprint Handicap at Newmarket. It has all the makings of a blanket finish, but talented apprentice *Neil Pollard's 7lb* claim on **Hill Magic (3.40)** may just give David Elsworth's top-weight the edge.

Collared close home by Sheltering Sky over course and distance on 2,000 Guineas day, Hill Magic came fast and late to catch Nuclear Debate at Lingfield next time. The runner-up looks sure to go well again, but Hill Magic can continue on the upgrade.

Only six runners line up for the six-furlong fillies' event at Newmarket, but there is no *easy answer. Godolphin's* Asfurah has some smart juvenile form to her name, and the drop in distance will suit John Dunlop's 1,000 Guineas flop, Ashraakat. However, there was a lot to like about the way **Ikhteyaar (4.15)** shaped on her seasonal debut when just losing out to the fitter Nanoushka at Lingfield.

On to Kempton tonight, where the five-furlong Ring & Brymer Achilles Stakes should favour the high numbers in the draw with the *stalls placed on the far side.* Coming out of box nine, **Midnight Escape (7.50)** could spring a surprise.

Saratoga Springs has been well backed to win the French Derby at Chantilly tomorrow. *It* is difficult to believe Aidan O'Brien's colt will also turn out at Epsom next week, as tough as he is, since he is bound to know he has been in a race.

The French colts may not be exceptional, but Pascal Bary rates Croco Rouge *(3.20) superior* to his two recent French Derby winners, Celtic Arms and Ragmar, and would have liked to have run the colt at Epsom.



Asfurah . . . smart Godolphin filly reappears at Newmarket today PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN LYNCH

HORSE SENSE
Written by those in the know

JUST a week to go before the *Derby* and betting on the race is still at sixes and sevens. But, assuming Cape Verdi takes on the colts. Friday's Oaks should be more straightforward.

It looks a case of Godolphin, successful in the fillies' Classic in 1994 and 1995 with Balanchine and Moonshell, versus Henry Cecil, who *has sent* out Lady Carla and Reams of Verse to win the last two runnings.

In the blue corner for *Godolphin, Bahr put* herself in the Oaks picture with a narrow defeat of the Cecil hope, Midnight Line, in the Musidora Stakes at York. But our money is on the placings being reversed at Epsom.

Below form
We understand Midnight Line had pricked *a foot* shortly before the Musidora. Bandaged behind. she was not entirely happy cutting out the running and the form book supports the view *that* she was some way below her best: Anna, who was just four lengths away third, had been nine lengths behind Midnight Line when Cecil's filly trotted up in the Pretty Polly Stakes.

Midnight Line will not have to do the donkey work *this time* — Fahd Salman, her owner, has bought the French filly Trophy Wife and supplemented her for the Oaks at a cost of £15,000. She will ensure a good pace and we *should* see the true Midnight Line at Epsom.

Epsom target
Another filly expected to shine on Oaks day is the two-year-old Kalidasa, whose target is the Woodcote Stakes.

Narrowly beaten on her debut at Chester three weeks ago, she has done well in *the* interim, but trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam has resisted the temptation to run her and *risk* picking up a penalty *for* next week's race.

Kalidasa is favoured by the conditions of the Woodcote; she will be receiving plenty of weight *from* Jack Berry's dual winner, Queensland *Star.*

Things are hotting up on the two-year-old front. Agreeable, who makes his debut in the Snailwell Stud Stakes at New*market* today, having wintered in Dubai, is reckoned Royal Ascot material and will be out to *cement* the David Loder-*Godolphin link.*

Cape Verdi won this race last year and it promises to be an informative event once again. While Agreeable *may* prove to be the sharpest colt on show today, keep an eye on the Michael Stoute-trained Emily's Luck Charm and Paul Cole's Sporting Lad. Both colts are held *in high* regard.

Mark Johnston's stable is about to hit top gear, and from the Middleham *trainer's* powerful team of two-year-olds we hear good reports of Stolen Tear.

Working well
This Cadeaux Genereux colt has been working well with the stable's York winner Atlantic Destiny. and is due to make his debut at Pontefract on Tuesday in the race Johnston won with Land of Dreams last year.

Don't write off Franco Mina, Mick Channon's six-lengths Salisbury winner. *He returned* with sore shins when soundly beaten at The Curragh last Saturday.

Several runners took the eye in the three-year-old Beverley maiden won by Forest Ending recent*ly, and* we advise keeping a close watch on fifth-placed Fields of Omagh when Ian Balding switches him to handicap company.

Saturday special
AMBER FORT
(5.20 Newmarket).

Newmarket Jackpot card

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.10	Laurentide	Laurentide
2.40	Agreeable	Grecian Tale
3.10	Lord Lieutenant	Anselman
3.40	Hill Magic	Kayo
4.15	Ikhteyaar	Ikhteyaar
4.45	Spindrift	Spindrift
5.20	Amber Fort	Family Man

Galloping track of 2¼m with right-hand bend at halfway. Straight course of 1¼m.
Going: Good to firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: No advantage.
Long distance travellers: Anselman (3.10), J Berry, 213 miles.
Seven day winners: 3.10 Quite Happy.
Blinkered first time: 3.40 Blue Kite. ***Visored:*** 5.20 Family Man.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing.

2.10 MILTON PARK STUD MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
1m 6f £4,152 (3 declared)

101 (2) 2 Laurentide (46) H Cecil 9-0 — K Fallon ●90
102 (1) 5 Lucayan Spring (7) M Johnston 9-0 — L Dettori 78
103 (3) 0- Roy (256) H Morrison 9-0 — D Harrison —

Betting: 1-3 Laurentide, 5-2 Lucayan Spring, 20-1 Roy.

2.40 EBF SNAILWELL STUD MAIDEN STAKES 2YO
6f £4,698 (10 declared)

201 (3) Agreeable D Loder 9-0 — L Dettori —
202 (5) Capriolo R Hannon 9-0 — W J O'Connor —
203 (10) Emily's Luck Charm M Stoute 9-0 — K Fallon —
204 (1) 63 Grecian Tale (14) A Jarvis 9-0 — C Lowther ●90
205 (7) Hot Passion M Bell 9-0 — R Mullen (3) —
206 (8) 00 Malchik (12) P Howling 9-0 — D Harrison —
207 (2) Marzooni G Lewis 9-0 — Paul Eddery —
208 (6) Sporting Lad P Cole 9-0 — T Quinn —
209 (4) 0 Wolf Tooth (16) D Elsworth 9-0 — S Drowne —
210 (9) Hishmah E Dunlop 8-9 — M Hills —

Betting: 6-4 Agreeable, 7-2 Emily's Luck Charm, 9-2 Sporting Lad, 7-1 Capriolo, 10-1 Hishmah, 16-1 Grecian Tale, 20-1 Hot Passion

3.10 SUNLEY HANDICAP — CH4
5f £5,796 (10 declared)

301 (5) 206-00 Mugello (21) (D) A Jarvis 3-10-0 — M Hills 86
302 (10) 000-00 Sylva Paradise (17) C Brittain 5-9-13 — Paul Eddery 85
303 (6) 054412 Anselman (7) (CD) J Berry 8-9-11 — C Lowther ★ ●90
304 (9) 03102- Literary Society (266) (CD) J Toller 5-9-11 — S Sanders 85
305 (2) 513- The Limping Cat (283) (D) B Morgan 3-9-10 — T Quinn 86
306 (4) 010-30 Lord Lieutenant (21) (D) M Bell 3-9-7 — K Fallon 88
307 (3) 2416-0 Happy Days Again (17) (CD) J Wharton 3-9-2 — A Nicholls (7) 85
308 (7) 5341-0 Cosmic Countess (14) M Jarvis 3-8-11 — P Robinson 83
309 (1) 02-031 Quite Happy (3) (6lb ex) (D) J Scargill 3-8-8 — L Dettori 89
310 (8) 000064 Swynford Dream (4) (CD) J Hetherton 5-7-12 — W Carlisle 88

Betting: 9-2 Anselman, Literary Society, Quite Happy, 6-1 Happy Days Again, Lord Lieutenant, Mugello, 14-1 Cosmic Countess, The Limping Cat, Swynford Dream, 16-1 Sylva Paradise

FORM GUIDE - Mugello: Good speed over 4f, 11th of 20, btn 6l bhd Hill Magic at Lingfield 6f hcap, Gd, with Lord Lieutenant (rec 5lb) led 4f, 19th, btn 14l. Anselman: Always prominent, ridden to challenge 1f out, unable to quicken, 2nd of 9, btn 1l bhd Tadeo at Haydock 5f hcap, Gd. Literary Society: Headway 2f out, challenged inside last, no extra. 2nd of 13, btn nk bhd Sounder at Yarmouth 5f hcap, Gf. The Limping Cat: Outpaced 2f out, stayed on towards finish, 3rd of 7, btn 6l bhd Bay Prince at York 5f listed, Gd. Quite Happy: Headway over 2f out, ridden to lead last stride, won by sh hd from Runs In The Family at Folkestone 5f hcap, Gf. Swynford Dream: Always chasing leaders, kept on same pace final furlong, 4th of 16, btn 3l bhd Kilcullen Lad at Redcar 5f hcap, Gf.

3.40 CORAL SPRINT HANDICAP — CH4
6f £22,450 (19 declared)

401 (14) 30-521 Hill Magic (21) (D) D Elsworth 9-7 — N Pollard (7) 88
402 (11) 12-2 Ring Dancer (17) (D) P Makin 9-3 — S Sanders 88
403 (10) 23-152 Night Shot (14) (BF) I Balding 9-1 — M Hills 88
404 (4) 05-321 Nuclear Debate (15) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 9-1 — J Fortune 87
405 (8) 145-6 Harmonic Way (21) (D) R Charlton 9-0 — K Fallon 86
406 (17) 15-301 Blundell Lane (24) (D) A Jarvis 8-12 — C Lowther 86
407 (5) 31-402 Masha-Il (14) (D) J Gosden 8-11 — L Dettori 86
408 (2) 10-112 Kayo (16) (D) T Etherington 8-11 — D Holland ●90
409 (6) 155-33 Manilas Pride (24) P Calver 8-10 — N Day 87
410 (9) 1302-8 Overture (14) R Hannon 8-9 — R Ffrench 86
411 (3) 40-161 Torrent (14) (D) T Barron 8-7 — J Carroll 87
412 (18) 02-10 Easter Ogil (25) (BF) I Balding 8-7 — D Harrison 80
413 (16) 5-5450 Blue Kite (21) N Littmoden 8-3 — A Nicholls (7) ★ 85
414 (12) 15-104 Magic Rainbow (24) (D) M Bell 8-2 — R Mullen (3) 86
415 (15) 6-10 Pips Song (24) (D) Dr J Scargill 8-1 — J Lowe 81

416 (1) 4-5002 Demolition Jo (7) (CD) P Evans 8-0 — Dale Gibson ★ 84
417 (7) 4224-1 Sarah Stokes (38) (D) R Guest 8-0 — P Doe (5) 85
418 (18) 5220 Fierte de Milan (7) A P Jones 7-13 — N Adams 85
419 (13) 650-04 Ivory's Joy (12) (D) K Ivory 7-10 — W Carlisle 88

Betting: 6-1 Nuclear Debate, 8-1 Ring Dancer, Sarah Stokes, Hill Magic, 10-1 Night Shot, Blundell Lane, Masha-Il, Kayo, 12-1 Manilas Pride, Torrent, Demolition Jo

FORM GUIDE - Hill Magic: Headway to lead inside last, ran on well, won by 3l from Nuclear Debate (rec 3lb) at Lingfield 6f hcap, Gd, with Harmonic Way (level), ran on from halfway, 6th, btn 2l, and Blue Kite (rec 11lb), 8th of 20, btn 3l. Ring Dancer: Led, ridden and headed inside final furlong, unable to quicken, 2nd of 7, btn 2l bhd Zeich at Lingfield 7f stks, Gf. Nuclear Debate: Headway over 2f out, shaken up and led inside final furlong, soon clear, won by 4l from Deep Space at Thirsk 6f mdn, Gd. Blundell Lane: Made all, clear 2f out, easily, won by 4l from Marston Lane at Chester 6f hcap, Gd, with Manilas Pride (gave 11lb), kept on under pressure final 2f, btn 6l. Magic Rainbow (gave 5lb) one pace inside last, 4th, btn 6l. Blue Kite (gave 5lb), one pace final 2f, 8th, btn 8l, Demolition Jo (gave 2lb), 8th, btn 10, and Pips Song (gave 4lb) 9th of 16, btn 11l. Masha-Il: Held up, headway over 2f out, ridden to have every chance final furlong, ran, 2nd, btn hd, bhd Double Brandy at Newbury 6f hcap, Gd, with Overture (gave 3lb), never near to challenge, 3rd of 13, btn 2l. Kayo: Raced keenly, soon tracking leaders, led over 1f out until near finish, 2nd of 19, btn hd bhd Ho Leng at York 7f hcap, Gd. Torrent: Tracked leaders, shaken up to lead inside final furlong, pushed out, won by nk from Night Shot (gave 10lb), led until headed inside final furlong, at Thirsk 5f hcap, Gf. Sarah Stokes: Made all, clear over 1f out, stayed on well, won by 1½l from Blueberry Parkes at Pontefract 6f mdn, Gs.

4.15 BANKES ASHTON INVESTMENT CHARLOTTE FILLIES' STAKES — CH4
6f £11,563 (6 declared)

501 (1) 14435- Prends Ca (203) (CD) W Muir 5-9-2 — J Fortune 83
502 (5) 2112- Asfurah (203) (D) (BF) S bin Suroor 3-9-1 — L Dettori 88
503 (3) 2211-2 Ikhteyaar (21) (D) (BF) R Armstrong 3-8-11 — R Price ●90
504 (2) 210-20 Ashraakat (27) J Dunlop 3-8-7 — T Quinn 89
505 (6) 2126-2 Desert Lady (28) R Charlton 3-8-7 — K Fallon 86
506 (4) 3135-3 Thanksgiving (11) D Chappell 3-8-7 — M Hills 84

Betting: 9-4 Ikhteyaar, 5-2 Asfurah, Ashraakat, 11-2 Desert Lady, 12-1 Prends Ca, 16-1 Thanksgiving.

FORM GUIDE - Prends Ca: Headway halfway, one pace final furlong, 5th of 13, btn 9l bhd Snow Kid at Doncaster 6f listed, Sft. Asfurah: Tracked leaders, ran on under pressure final furlong, just failed, 2nd of 9, btn hd bhd Princely Heir at Leopardstown 6f grp 1, Gd. Ikhteyaar: Always prominent, ridden over 2f out, every chance inside final furlong, ran on, 2nd of 9, btn nk bhd Nanoushka at Lingfield 7f, Gd. Ashraakat: Led until headed 3f out, ridden and weakened 2f out, 9th of 16, btn 27l bhd Cape Verdi at Newmarket 1m gr 1, Gd. Desert Lady: Always prominent, chased winner over 1f out, no impression, 2nd of 9, btn 3l bhd Lochangel at Bath 6f, Gd. Thanksgiving: held up, hard ridden over 1f out, weakened close home, 3rd of 7, btn 6l bhd Rambling Bear at Goodwood 6f, Gd.

4.45 MAIDEN STAKES 3YO — CH4
1m £4,581 (12 declared)

601 (9) 42 El Ghazzee (19) M Jarvis 9-0 — P Robinson —
602 (10) 633-0 Lear Spear (32) D Elsworth 9-0 — T Quinn 73
603 (6) 0-0 Mi Picasso (13) M Tompkins 9-0 — Dale Gibson —
604 (1) 3 On The Ridge (15) H Cecil 9-0 — K Fallon 89
605 (6) Shogun J Gosden 9-0 — G Hind —
606 (11) 2 Spindrift (27) L Cumani 9-0 — R Ffrench ●90
607 (7) 6 Time Loss (29) H Candy 9-0 — Paul Eddery 79
608 (5) Wealthy Star B Hanbury 9-0 — M Hills —
609 (4) 0 Fairy Three (12) S C Williams 8-9 — A McGlone —
610 (3) Misleading Lady M Stoute 8-9 — F Lynch —
611 (2) 5- Momentarily (315) E Dunlop 8-9 — D Holland 55
612 (12) Trendy Indian J Gosden 8-9 — L Dettori —

Betting: 6-4 On The Ridge, 7-4 Spindrift, 9-1 Shogun, Misleading Lady, 14-1 Trendy Indian, Time Loss, 16-1 El Ghazzee

FORM GUIDE - El Ghazzee: Led, quickened over 4f out, headed well over 2f out, soon outpaced, 2nd of 5, btn 13l bhd Gold Mist at Redcar 1m 2f mdn, Gd. Lear Spear: Headway 4f out, weakened 2f out, 10th of 11, btn 27l bhd Abyaan at Bath 1m 2f mdn, Sft. On The Ridge: Prominent, led over 2f out, headed inside final furlong, unable to quicken, 3rd of 21, btn 2l bhd Eaton Square at Newbury 1m 3y mdn, Gf. Shogun: Zakone colt out of French 1m4f winner. Spindrift: Headway over 2f out, ran on, no chance with winner, 2nd of 28, btn 4l bhd Fa-Eq at Newmarket 1m 3y mdn, Gd. Time Loss: Rear early, ran on under gentle handling inside final 2f, 6th, btn 7l, bhd Galecrasher at Kempton 1m md, Gs. Misleading Lady: Warning filly related to several winners including Whitewater Affair.

5.20 COUNTRYSIDE HANDICAP
1m £4,659 (12 declared)

1 (5) 031-20 Wild Sky (18) (C) (BF) M Heaton-Ellis 4-9-12 — T Quinn 85
2 (2) 40500- Caradi (298) C Allen 4-9-10 — G Hind 84
3 (11) 031-00 Amber Fort (18) D Elsworth 5-9-10 — N Pollard (7) ★ 86
4 (9) 1000-0 Family Man (21) (CD) J Fanshawe 5-9-9 — D Harrison ★ ●90
5 (12) 433403 Eurobox Boy (5) (D) A Jarvis 5-9-7 — M Hills 83
6 (8) 4-3026 Ben Gunn (11) (C) (D) P Walwyn 6-9-5 — J Carroll 88
7 (7) 21-002 Topton (14) P Howling 4-9-5 — Paul Eddery ★ 87
8 (10) 660-64 Wild Palm (15) (D) Mrs A E Johnson 6-8-12 — A McGlone 89
9 (4) 000-00 Night Dance (15) (D) K Morgan 6-8-9 — R Ffrench 81
10 (6) 40050- Swinging The Blues (214) J Hills 4-8-1 — M Henry 87
11 (3) 6-5050 Gate Line (39) (BF) C Dwyer 5-8-0 — J Lowe 88
12 (1) 64-301 Dina Line (18) (D) M Bell 4-8-0 — R Mullen (3) 84

Betting: 9-2 Amber Fort, 5-1 Ben Gunn, 7-1 Wild Sky, Family Man, 8-1 Wild Palm, Topton, Eurobox Boy, 12-1 Gate Line, Dina Line

Stratford (N.H) with TV form guide

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.25	*Lady Rebecca*	*Lady Rebecca*
2.55	Nashville Star	Nashville Star
3.25	Mytton's Choice	River Wye
3.55	Boxing Match	Boxing Match
4.30	Jigtime	Jigtime (nap)
5.05	Celtic Abbey	Easthorpe
5.35	Cashaplenty	Hazzaf

Flat, sharp Left-handed circuit of 1¼m with 200yds run-in..
Going: Good, Good to Firm in Places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: K Anderson's horses, 250 miles.
Seven day winners: None
Blinkered first time: 5.05 Larry's Lord; 5.35 Heart Full Of Soul.
Visored: 5.35 Capsoff.

2.25 NOVICE HURDLE
2m 6f 110yds £3,372 (13 declared)

1 1-1101 Lady Rebecca (25) Miss V Williams 6-11-12 S Kelly (5) ●90
2 22300P Decyborg (58) M Pipe 7-11-11 — C Maude 83
3 433241 Fujiyama Crest (22) (CD) N Henderson 6-11-5 — M A Fitzgerald ★ 85
4 01P0 Kristiffe (42) (D) D Sherwood 5-11-5 — D Gallagher 38
5 2-1P0 Solazzi (25) (D) R Frost 6-11-0 — D Burrows (5) 78
6 Charlotte's Boy R Simpson 5-10-13 — B Dave (7) —
7 PP-PPP Chequers Boy (25) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-13 — C Llewellyn —
8 PPPP51 Heading North (26) O Carter 7-10-13 Mr S Stronge (7) ★ 60
9 022144 Ile de Libraite (28) R O'Sullivan 4-10-13 — R Johnson 70
10 FP5550 Sands Point (17) C Popham 8-10-13 — B Powell ★ 65
11 PPFPP Smitten Not Bitten (41) J Mullins 7-10-13 — David Turner (7) —
12 P0364 Madge McSplash (14) J Jefferson 6-10-8 — Michael Brennan 67
13 0400F2 The Bizzo (19) J Pinnett 7-10-8 — J Goldstein (5) 67

Betting: 4-5 Lady Rebecca, 4-1 Fujiyama Crest, 8-1 Decyborg, 12-1 Ile De Libraite.

2.55 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP CHASE
2m 1f 110yds £4,822 (7 declared)

1 114365 Yubralee (15) (D) M Pipe 6-12-0 — C Maude 69
2 3-2605 Time Won't Wait (24) (CD) R Phillips 9-12-0 — M A Fitzgerald 89
3 152P13 Gipsy Geof (28) G Hubbard 7-10-13 — R Thornton 81
4 123-43 Mr Conductor (14) R Alner 7-10-13 — R Johnson 77
5 32-F52 Brazil Or Bust (15) P R Webber 7-10-12 — G Bradley 81
6 16P043 Marius (37) (D) J Gifford 8-10-6 — L Aspell (3) 84
7 424363 Nashville Star (44) (D) R Mathew 7-10-5 C Llewellyn ★ ●90

Betting: 5-2 Time Won't Wait, 4-1 Gipsy Geof, 9-2 Brazil Or Bust, 6-1 Marius, 7-1 Nashville Star, 8-1 Yubralee, Mr Conductor

3.25 *INTRUM JUSTITIA HANDICAP HURDLE*
2m 110yds £4,055 (7 declared)

1 1131PP The French Furze (56) (D) M Pipe 4-11-10 C Maude ★ 86
2 5/0324? Easy Listening (58) (D) N Hawke 6-11-4 — M A Fitzgerald ★ 89
3 1460-P Mytton's Choice (37) (D) A Bailey 7-11-3 R Thornton 85
4 -11202 Beimarita (22) (D) G Hubbard 5-11-1 — R Johnson 86
5 P-2412 River Wye (14) (C) (D) (BF) G Yardley 6-10-7 Y Slattery ●90
6 402034 Secret Service (5) (D) (BF) C Barwell 6-10-3 — T J Murphy 88
7 452421 Bartholomew Fair (22) (CD) C Dwyer 7-10-1 R Farrant 86

Betting: 3-1 The French Furze, 4-1 Easy Listening, 9-2 Beimarita, Bartholomew Fair, 5-1 River Wye, 7-1 Secret Service, 10-1 Mytton's Choice

3.55 LADIES' HUNTER CHASE (Amateur riders) — CH4
3m £2,679 (20 declared)

1 -4PF11 Bluagale (9) (D) P Nicholls 7-11-7 — S Vickery (7) 78
2 -42461 Boxing Match (17) (C) (D) R Phillips 11-11-3 — V Roberts (7) ●90
3 4 53P2 Airtrak (13) (D) Mrs R Pilkington 9-11-0 A Stedman (7) —
4 222132 Balleterus (21) (D) Mrs B Thurston 9-11-0 — B Thomson (7) 80
5 P3-56F Dick's Cabin (21) (D) Mrs S Walton 11-11-0 — A Goschen (7) —
6 -3P332 Drumstick (6) (C) Miss H Irving 12-11-0 — H Irving (7) 78
7 363F-3 Indian Quest (20) T Price 9-11-0 — A Haskins (7) 75
8 024F52 Mr Bean (28) P Morgan 8-11-0 — E J Jones (7) ★ 70
9 UUR36P Otter River (5) O Carter 9-11-0 — M Coombe (7) 70
10 R-1112 Ozzie Jones (22) (D) K R Pearce 7-11-0 — L Pearce (7) 80
11 411134 Tiderunner (7) (D) Mrs M Morris 10-11-0 — M Morris (7) —
12 U21-31 Trevveethan (28) (D) G Smyly 9-11-0 — C Ford (7) —
13 -SP3PP Wake Up Luv (14) (D) R Williams 13-11-0 — P Cooper (7) 70

14 060P34 Warner Forpleasure (24) E Lee 12-11-0 — S Sharratt (7) 60
15 123131 Sayin Nowt (21) (D) K Anderson 10-10-12 — V Jackson (5) 77
16 /5-253 Go Mary (45) Miss C Phillips 12-10-9 — C Thomas (7) 77
17 U24125 Miss Montgomery (7) (D) Mrs S Farr 7-10-9 — F Wilson (7) 62
18 322321 Polar Ana (13) (D) Mrs G Gladders 9-10-9 — S Gladders (7) 62
19 4/F34P Poppea (21) (D) R Bevis 9-10-9 — E James (7) —
20 F50U0U Sudden Sally (7) J Hughes 7-10-9 — L Bradburne (7) —

Betting: 9-2 Bluagale, 6-1 Sayin Nowt, 7-1 Ozzie Jones, 8-1 Boxing Match, 10-1 Go Mary, 12-1 Balleterus, Drumstick, Mr Bean, Polar Ana.

FORM GUIDE - Bluagale: Led, made all, clear 12th comfortably, won by 2½l from Pangeran at Exeter 2m 3f nov hunter ch, Fm. Boxing Match: Tracked leaders, hit 13th, led 4 out, clear when hit 2 out, comfortably, won by 20l from Ensee-H at Huntingdon 3m hunter ch, Gf. Ozzie Jones: Headway 6th, chased winner from 14th, hit 3 out, no impression, 2nd of 14, btn 9l bhd Grimley Gale at Stratford 3m hunter ch, Fm. Sayin Nowt: Won by 2l from Ballsterus at Aspatria 3m point-to-point, Gd. Go Mary: Behind until headway 6th, hard ridden approaching 2 out, one pace, 3rd of 13, btn 26l bhd Flat Top at Cheltenham 2m 5f hcap ch, Hvy.

4.30 THE HORSE AND HOUND CUP FINAL (Hunter Chase) — CH4
3m 4f £13,810 (11 declared)

1 2-2132 Double Silk (31) R C Wilkins 14-12-0 — J Tizzard 82
2 2114-P Glen Oak (24) D Duggan 13-12-0 — S Stronge 78
3 311121 Howayman (31) K Anderson 8-12-0 — K Anderson 82
4 F21F13 Lochnagrain (32) (BF) T Forster 10-12-0 — S Durack 73
5 1-4113 Nodform Wonder (14) (BF) R Bevis 11-12-0 — R Bevis 83
6 25-433 Real Progress (26) (CD) J McConnochie 10-12-0 J Trice-Rolph 70
7 1-1112 Teeton Mill (31) (BF) Miss V Williams 9-12-0 — Miss S Vickery 85
8 2P5P11 Toor's General Star (10) O Carter 10-12-0 — J Young 71
9 -31112 Varykinov (29) (BF) M G Rimell 9-12-0 — M Rimell 75
10 141111 Grimley Gale (13) (C) M Jackson 9-11-9 — M Jackson 84
11 1-F111 Jigtime (16) (D) J Hughes 9-11-9 — M Bradburne ●90

Betting: 11-4 Teeton Mill, 3-1 Jigtime, 4-1 Grimley Gale, 7-1 Howayman, 8-1 Double Silk, 10-1 Lochnagrain, 14-1 Nodform Wonder.

FORM GUIDE - Double Silk: Jumped well, led, ridden and headed approaching 2 out, every chance last, ran on, 2nd of 8, btn 2l behind Cavalero at Cheltenham 3m 1f hunter ch, Gs. Lochnagrain: Held up, headway 12th, ridden and hit 2 out, no impression when hit last, 3rd of 8, btn 12l bhd Tinotops at Huntingdon 3m hunter ch, Gs. Teeton Mill: Held up, headway 14th, led 3 out to flat, hung right, weakened, 2nd of 9, btn 12l bhd Double Thriller at Cheltenham 3m 2f hunter ch, Gs. Grimley Gale: Won by a distance from Skirtoast Green at Wetherby 3m point-to-point, Gf. Jigtime: Tracked leaders, led 10th, hit 12th, drew clear from 2 out, won by 14l from Tartan Tradewinds at Kelso 3m 1f hunter ch, Gf.

5.05 JENKINSONS HANDICAP CHASE
2m 5f 110yds £5,183 (10 declared)

1 -13611 Philip's Woody (24) (CD) N Henderson 10-12-0 — M A Fitzgerald 85
2 -4PFF3 Celtic Abbey (15) (C) (D) Miss V Williams 10-11-10 — R Johnson 86
3 322004 Glemot (43) (C) (D) P R Webber 10-11-9 J A McCarthy 86
4 010F05 Kilbreet (56) P Hobbs 11-11-8 — Mr R Widger (7) 78
5 33P-PP Imperial Vintage (28) (D) Miss V Williams 8-11-4 — R Thornton —
6 611563 Easthorpe (10) Miss H Knight 10-11-0 — J Culloty ●90
7 -3130P Larry's Lord (10) (CD) P Nicholls 9-10-11 T J Murphy ★ 86
8 31-0F4 Paldon Pride (10) (D) G Balding 10-10-11 — B Clifford —
9 214P11 Glamanglitz (24) (D) P Dalton 8-10-10 — C Maude 83
10 P51F03 Stanmore (21) C Brooks 6-10-2 — D Gallagher 86

Betting: 3-1 Glamanglitz, 4-1 Philip's Woody, 5-1 Glemot, 7-1 Celtic Abbey, Kilbreet, 10-1 Easthorpe

5.35 EVESHAM NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 110yds £2,612 (17 declared)

1 F11053 Gray Pastel (9) (D) M Pipe 4-11-10 — C Maude 89
2 P31112 Specialize (8) (D) (BF) K Burke 6-11-9 M Griffiths (5) ★ 88
3 444P4 Master Millfield (10) R Hodges 6-11-5 — T Dascombe 88
4 60F0 Die Fledermaus (70) Miss H Knight 4-11-3 — J Culloty 86
5 550 Silver Star (21) D Burchell 4-11-1 — D J Burchell 86
6 00-R05 Express Again (8) R Johnson Houghton 6-10-13 — D Gallagher 88
7 030-01 Hazzaf (17) (D) M Kettle 9-10-10 — M A Fitzgerald ●90
8 553350 Cinnamon Club (13) N Gaselee 6-10-10 — C Llewellyn 86
9 P56046 Capsoff (84) C Hubbard 5-10-10 — R Thornton ★ 86
10 0F5340 B My Lovely (38) D O'Neill 8-10-8 — Mr S Durack (7) 88
11 0221-0 Salix Knight (F2) G L Moore 5-10-5 — J Goldstein (5) 84
12 -000SP Mister Chips (6) J King 7-10-5 — T J Murphy 87
13 P11-00 Cashaplenty (14) J Jefferson 5-10-3 — Michael Brennan 89
14 P00P Lado (26) J Weedon 4-10-2 — N Richards 70
15 000 Heart Full Of Soul (29) P Shakespeare 4-10-0 — A Procter ★ 81
16 0 0F00 Another Rumpus (22) C Morlock 6-10-0 J A McCarthy —
17 -0P004 Esu Beuito (5) H Collingridge 7-10-0 — J R Kavanagh —

Betting: 5-1 Specialize, 9-2 Gray Pastel, 7-1 Master Millfield, 8-1 Cinnamon Club.

Market Rasen (N.H.) tonight

	RON COX	TOP FORM
6.30	Playmaker	Intak
7.00	Albemarie	Gemikosix
7.30	Cheeka	Tapatch
8.00	Silverdale Lad	Poly Amanshaa
8.30	Hurricane Linda	Father Rector
9.00	Whirlawhile	Bullfinch

Oval, right-handed track of 1¼m with 250yds run-in. Undulating and favours the handy, front running type.
Going: Good to Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: *8.30 Hurricane Linda & Private Jet.*
Seven day winners: Press On Nicky (9.00), P Bowen, Dyfed, 265 miles.
Blinkered first time: 8.00 Non Vintage, 8.30 Orion House; 9.00 Son Of Aragon.
Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing.
F,Flat.

6.30 CLARK CONSTRUCTION SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 1f 110yds £1,716 (12 declared)

1 600020 Fabulos (32) M Pipe 5-11-10 — B Sample (5) 82
2 034-P6 Bob's Ploy (152) Mrs J Brown 6-11-1 — E Callaghan 76
3 -00608 Intak (F12) J L Harris 6-11-3 — J Magee (3) ●90
4 P400P0 Playmaker (5) Mrs S Smith 5-10-12 — R Wilkinson (5) 74
5 6251P0 Mega Tid (F2) J R Poulton 5-10-7 — M Batchelor 85
6 00P2P5 Oakbury (6) (CD) Miss L Siddall 6-10-3 — T Siddall (5) 85
7 0603 Oriel Lad (5) Miss K Milligan 5-10-3 — D Parker 82
8 G0P0P5 Fleeka (36) C Hemsley 6-10-2 — Miss A Dudley (7) 88
9 BF0065 Cochill (10) P Hiatt 4-10-0 — E Husband (5) ★ 79
10 040P60 Hamilton Princess (7) K Hogg 6-10-0 — D Bentley —
11 00-600 Respecting (187) J A Moore 5-10-0 — N Smith —
12 P003 Dino's Mistral (28) K Morgan 5-10-0 — A S Smith 73

Betting: 4-1 Fabulos, 5-1 Mega Tid, 6-1 Oakbury, Dino's Mistral, 7-1 Oriel Lad, 8-1 Bob's Ploy, 10-1 Intak, Hamilton Princess.

7.00 ROGER JOHNSTONE & PARTNERS NOVICE CHASE
2m 4f £4,261 (10 declared)

1 21-233 Eid (15) (CD) Mrs S Smith 9-11-7 — R Wilkinson (5) 85
2 UPPP1 Red Rory (17) T D Mccarthy 9-11-7 — Mr T McCarthy 80
3 /1-F31 Albemarle (31) (D) T Forster 7-11-0 — N Williamson —
4 3050-0 Black Ice (19) T Tate 7-11-0 — J Callaghan ★ —
5 4F510 Dahlyah (13) D Williams 7-11-0 — B Powell —
6 2F53F Ever Smile (20) (D) M Pipe 11-11-0 — E Callaghan 83
7 113/52 Gemikosix (15) (CD) M Hammond 8-11-0 — R Garritty ●90
8 0003FF Market Springer (10) J L Harris 7-11-0 — J Magee (3) —
9 4222P Mocklakker (180) (C) K Morgan 7-11-0 — A S Smith 79
10 245065 Willie Wannabe (6) M Chapman 8-11-0 — W Worthington 60

Betting: 5-2 Albemarle, 3-1 Gemikosix, 4-1 Ever Smile, 7-1 Eid, 12-1 Red Rory, Market Springer, Mocklakker.

7.30 LINCOLNSHIRE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE HANDICAP CHASE
2m 1f 110yds £3,277 (8 declared)

1 -41UPU Inch Emperor (13) A Carroll 8-11-10 — B Powell 84
2 441216 Nocatchim (62) (D) K Morgan 9-11-2 — A S Smith ★ 83
3 234343 Tapatch (163) (CD) M W Easterby 10-11-0 N Williamson ★ ●90
4 6503-0 Bally Parson (14) (CD) R Dickin 12-10-13 X Aizpuru (3) 85
5 346243 Rupples (219) (CD) M Chapman 11-10-2 — W Worthington 80
6 -43501 Cheeka (26) C Smith 9-10-1 — M Ranger 88
7 5P4322 Fenwick's Brother (155) (D) (BF) Mrs S Smith 8-10-0 — R Wilkinson (5) 89
8 456406 Circulation (15) (CD) D McCain 12-10-0 — G Bogan 85

Betting: 3-1 Fenwick's Brother, 4-1 Cheeka, 9-2 Inch Emperor, 5-1 Tapatch, 11-2 Nocatchim, 8-1 Bally Parson, 12-1 Circulation, 14-1 Rupples.

8.00 LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 3f 110yds £3,088 (8 declared)

1 111326 Jamaican Flight (F20) (CD) Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-11 — N Williamson 89
2 P20033 Non Vintage (7) (C) M Chapman 7-11-2 W Worthington ★ 88
3 34PPPP Keep Me In Mind (26) N Mitchell 9-10-0 — Sophie Mitchell (3) 85
4 353331 Poly Amanshaa (8) M Banks 6-10-0 — R Studholme (5) 88
5 312254 Silverdale Lad (7) (C) K Hogg 7-10-0 — R Johnson ●90
6 -53056 Brackenthwaite (40) A J Lockwood 8-10-0 — N Horrocks (5) 88
7 43F-FF Gorby's Myth (98) (CD) K Morgan 8-10-0 — A S Smith —
8 035353 Signs Wireless (7) (D) T Etherington 9-10-0 — L Cummins (5) ★ 86

Betting: 5-2 Jamaican Flight, 11-4 Poly Amanshaa, 11-2 Silverdale Lad, 7-1 Non Vintage, 8-1 Brackenthwaite, Signs Wireless, 12-1 Gorby's Myth, 16-1 Keep Me In Mind.

8.30 GEOSTAR HUNTER CHASE (Amateur riders)
2m 5f 110yds £2,052 (14 declared)

1 6-13U1 Father Rector (28) (D) C Brooks 9-12-10 — B Kendellen (7) ●90
2 11F522 Wind Force (7) M Robinson 13-12-10 S J Robinson (7) 83
3 111213 Cadrillon (17) A J Lockwood 8-12-7 — Miss J Eastwood (7) 85
4 P3/541 Craigstown (13) Mrs J Barr 10-12-7 — C Mulhall (7) —
5 F662P1 Private Jet (7) J A Rowan 9-12-4 — G Markham (7) 82
6 142142 Hiltonstown Lass (7) (BF) T Watford 8-12-2 — R Watford (7) 89
7 -BPPPR Iceariaiya (5) R Woods 9-11-10 — N Kent (7) —
8 234234 Indie Rock (5) R Tate 8-11-10 — Mrs F Needham (7) 89
9 -PP380 Knollsworth Lad (13) (D) W J Moore 10-11-10 — J G Townson (7) —
10 42P545 Orion House (5) S Kelly 11-11-10 — G Hanmer (7) ★ 72
11 "1232P Ryders Wells (13) Mrs M Morris 11-11-10 — A Sansome (6) —
12 111-21 Hurricane Linda (7) A Walker 11-11-5 — S Walker (7) —
13 13411 Japodene (13) Mrs S Dent 10-11-5 — Mrs S Grant (7) —
14 -F424P Bavaria (7) D Williams 5-11-3 — R Farrant (7) —

Betting: 3-1 Father Rector, 9-2 Hiltonstown Lass, 8-1 Private Jet, Hurricane Linda, Japodene, 10-1 Wind Force, Cadrillon, Indie Rock.

9.00 ST BARNABAS HOSPICE MAIDEN HURDLE
2m 1f 110yds £2,863 (17 declared)

1 5526 Bullfinch (89) R Phillips 5-11-5 — N Williamson —
2 1330P6 Double Star (71) J L Harris 7-11-5 — J A McCarthy ●90
3 060 Khatany King (8) N Chance 5-11-5 — J Magee (3) 72
4 0-R034 Mariglano (75) K Morgan 5-11-5 — S Cassidy —
5 1200 Mike Equal (97) (B) (BF) M Pipe 5-11-5 — A S Smith 75
6 0-6032 Mo's Boy (21) Mrs S Smith 7-11-5 — G Sample (5) —
7 0-0040 Sea God (5) M Chapman 7-11-5 — S Fordit (7) 76
8 0P3 Shardante (21) J Jefferson 5-11-5 — W Worthington 78
9 Trapper Norman (F49) C Smith 5-11-5 — E Callaghan 82
10 3-010 Alone Tabankulu (279) R Dickin 6-11-0 — M Ranger —
11 0 Hipperque (10) Mrs J Pitman 4-11-0 — C Llewellyn —
12 4 Keep Me Straight (22) M Pitman 4-11-0 — R Clifford —
13 0 Press On Nicky (25) P Bowen 5-11-0 — R Farrant 74
14 060P Son Of Aragon (14) C Thornton 4-11-0 — R Johnson —
15 35 Sophie Lockett (7) K Hogg 5-11-0 — J Callaghan ★ —
16 0-3404 The Secret Seven (28) J K Cresswell 8-11-0 — D Parker —
17 342 Whirlawhile (21) Miss V Williams 4-11-0 — N Williamson 80

Betting: 5-1 Keep Me Straight, Whirlawhile, 6-1 Mike Equal, 7-1 Mo's Boy, 8-1 Bullfinch, Shardante, 10-1 Mariglano

هكذا من الاصل

صحكذا من الاهرام



Flying the flag . . . Black, here in cheerful mood after the 4x400 metres relay at the Atlanta Olympics, has been a fine ambassador for British athletics PHOTOGRAPH: SIMON BRUTY

Happy Black cruises towards final straight

Duncan Mackay on the high hopes of Britain's one-lap legend

THE autobiography is due in the bookshops next month. The benefit dinner at a plush London hotel has been arranged. Plans are well under way for a new career. All Roger Black needs to do before he hangs up his spikes in September is win the 400 metres at the European Championships for an unprecedented third time.

"If I can stand on top of that *rostrum in Budapest in* August knowing that for the guys behind me it was their *chance to be European champion* but that they couldn't beat the old bastard, I will walk *away from the sport a* happy man," says Black.

At 32, after five operations *and two bouts of debilitating* viral illness, Britain's pre-eminent one-lap runner of the *past 12 years says:* "It takes a lot of effort and focus to train properly every day and there *are other things I want to do* with my life. It takes a lot of commitment to start again *every year and I don't want to* do it again after 1998."

For Black, who opens his *final season with a race in* Seville tonight, it is important that he ends his career on a high note after the disappointment of last summer. His omission from Britain's team for the World Championships, less than a year after winning the Olympic silver medal, still rankles with him.

"But I learnt a big lesson. In 1996 I didn't take any risks, and the fact is I'm not good enough to take risks and get *away with it. I got a virus* last year when I attended a week-long motivational seminar *and got no sleep, and it was* no way to prepare for a season. I paid the price. If I'm not *100 per cent focused I will not* make the British team."

Half a dozen men are in *contention for the three indi*vidual places in Budapest, though Du'aine Ladejo is no*table by his absence. It was* Ladejo, now concentrating on the decathlon, who broke *Black's heart in Helsinki four* years ago by ending his attempt on three consecutive European titles by beating him into second place.

"Mark Richardson, Iwan *Thomas and Jamie Baulch* will be hard to beat this year, no doubt about it, and I will *have to be on top of my form* to make the team," admits Black. "And they may get better, which will make them even harder to beat."

Of the three, Black believes Richardson is the greatest threat — a point borne out in Cottbus, Germany, on Wednesday when the Windsor runner opened his season with a time of 45.17sec.

Richardson approached Black in 1996 and asked if they *could train together.* Black agreed and they recently returned from three months *in California.* Richardson admits: "He's given me so much advice and encouragement *that it will be a mixture of* emotions if I beat him in Budapest. For years my generation has set its sights on Roger and the fact that there are now three or four of us who are world-class is down to the standard he set."

Training with Richardson and another potential rival, Mark Hylton, is an attempt by Black to recreate the situation he enjoyed with his previous training partners Kriss Akabusi and Jon Ridgeon. "This year for me is 1996 revisited," he explains.

Black's trophy cabinet is already overflowing with honours, including European *titles from Stuttgart in 1986* and Split in 1990 and a relay gold medal from the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo, but he will always have to live with the frustration of knowing that injury and illness robbed him of so many other opportunities.

Black nearly became a doctor. He enrolled in the medical programme at Southampton University but decided after one term to concentrate on athletics. There were times, however, when he spent as much time in hospital as his former class-mates.

He missed the 1988 Olympics with a broken right foot, had an operation to his right hip in 1992, and in 1993 went down with glandular fever, which recurred in a milder form last year.

"Few athletes will have the misfortune to experience the problems that Roger has had to fight through," says Ridgeon. "In my experience very few athletes succeed in getting back to the top flight having suffered the way Roger has. He went through some very tough times in the depths of his long-term injury and illness nightmares."

The experiences have given Black a rich seam of tales to mine for his planned new career in motivational speaking. "Ironically," he says, "my problems have given me a good story to tell that seems to go down very well."

Black hopes to combine it with a role in television. He appeared regularly last autumn on BBC 24, the Corporation's cable station beamed around the world, before leaving to train in the United States and he is clearly being groomed for a role similar to Gary Lineker's. "If I can't *compete at the Olympics the* next best thing is to get the top seat in the house and be *paid to present it," he says.*

But for the next four months, running will occupy Black's mind. "It's a long time since I ran a good 400 metres — probably just after the Olympics two years ago. Hopefully this season it will be as easy as it used to be."



Something to smile about . . . Black's message is straight to the point as he waves to his legion of loyal supporters

> He will always have to live with the frustration of knowing that illness robbed him of so many other opportunities

Sport in brief

Tennis

Wild card for Agassi

Andre Agassi, the former Wimbledon champion, is expected to accept the offer of a wild card for the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's Club in London from June 8–14 with his fellow American Pete Sampras, the world No. 1 and reigning All England champion.

Both Sampras and Agassi, who would be making his first appearance at Queen's, made early exits from the French Open in Paris this week and are keen to use the event as practice for Wimbledon. "Agassi has asked us if there is a wild card available and we have said 'Yes, if you want one'," said a tournament spokesman.

Ice Hockey

Bees' Bernard buzzes off

Bracknell Bees have lost the services of their netminder Mark Bernard, who had been expected to return for a third season with the Berkshire Superleague club, *writes Vic Batchelder.* Dave Whistle, the Bees' new coach, said: "We are sorry to see Bernie go but he has decided it is time for him to move on. We understand he has taken a job as player and assistant coach with a team in the United States." Whistle's defenceman Rob Stewart and Dutch international forward Chris Brant have signed new contracts.

Another player on the move is the former Great Britain defenceman Graham Waghorn who, after eight seasons with *the Superleague's Nottingham Panthers, has stepped down a* level to join Peterborough Pirates in the British National League.

Two goals by Peter Bondra, including the winner 10 minutes into sudden-death overtime, led the Washington Capitals to a 4–3 win *in Buffalo* over the Sabres in game three of the Stanley Cup semi-final series. Capitals go into tonight's fourth game, also in Buffalo, leading the series 2–1.

Football

New deal for Five Live

BBC Radio Five Live has secured a two-year extension to its exclusive broadcasting rights of the Premier League. The *station's current deal was due to expire next year and the new* agreement, for an undisclosed amount, lasts until the summer of 2001.

Boxing

Council steps into row

The Scottish Sports Council will set up an independent commission to ease concerns *about the future of amateur boxing* north of the border. The Council has intervened because of differences between the Scottish Amateur Boxing Association *and the recently formed Scottish Amateur Boxing Federation.*

Graeme Simmers, chairman of the council, said: "The existence of two governing bodies, and the hostile relationship between them, *is clearly not a healthy situation. It seems* unlikely that progress will made without direct intervention."

Golf

Love bounces back

Davis Love, playing his first tournament since winning the MCI Classic five weeks ago, shot a 66 to take a share of the lead after the first round of the Memorial Tournament in Dublin, Ohio. Love, *who has had back problems, Joey Sindelar, Steve* Pate and Trevor Dodds were one stroke ahead of seven players, including Ernie Els, the world No. 1. Vijay Singh, the defending champion, was seven *strokes off the pace.*

Rowing

Redgrave through to final

Britain's coxless four yesterday got off to a rocky start with the giant Croatian international Luka Grubor substituting for the injured Tim Foster, but still reached the World Cup final by beating Germany at the Munich regatta, *writes Christopher Dodd.* Tomorrow presents a bigger challenge against Romania, winners of the other heat in a time three seconds quicker.

Steve Redgrave, who sits in the No. 2 seat, said: "We were sloppy off the start and didn't really get into it until halfway."

Cycling

Noe takes over Giro lead

Michele Bartoli, the 1997 World Cup champion, won the 13th stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday in a three-man finish in Schio. His Asics team-mate Andrea Noe assumed the overall *lead from Laurent Roux.*

Bartoli edged out his fellow Italians Giuseppe Guerini and Paolo Bettini, with Noe three seconds back. The race favourite *Alex Zülle tumbled twice going downhill.*

The week's sport on TV

Today

BBC1

12.30pm Grandstand Introduced *by Sue Barker.* 12.35 World Cup Football Focus; 1.15 Cricket *Focus;* 1.40 *Motor Racing;* 2.40 French Open Tennis

BBC2

10.55am Yachting *Whitbread Round* the World Race round-up

ITV

1.10pm World Cup '98 *Jim* Rosenthal presents this preview of the World Cup. Includes a profile of the German team

C4

2.55pm Racing Introduced by Jim McGrath and Derek Thompson. Four races from Newmarket and two races from Stratford

C5

2pm Sportsweek: on 5 Including FedEx Championship motor racing from Illinois and Australian rules football

SKY SPORTS 1

10.30am Live Golf *Second round of* the Deutsche Bank Open from Hamburg

8.30pm Saturday Night Fight — Live The IBF Intercontinental title fight from Bristol between London's Mark Prince and Mario Tonus of Italy

SKY SPORTS 2

2pm Racing Four races from Lingfield, three races from Stratford and three races from Catterick

6.30 Racing Four races from Musselburgh and four races from Kempton Park

SKY SPORTS 3

2pm Live Rugby Union Boland v Ireland. The first match of Ireland's tour of South Africa *(kick-off 2.15)*

4.00 Rugby Union The final of the southern hemisphere's Super 12 tournament between Auckland *and Canterbury*

9.00 Live Golf Round three of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village, Ohio

EUROSPORT

10am Live Tennis Coverage of the French Open from Roland Garros

1pm Live Motorcycling Qualifying for tomorrow's French Grand Prix

3.15 Live Cycling The Tour of Italy, 14th stage. Further coverage at *7pm and 10.30pm*

8.30 Live Athletics The XV Gran Premio Diputacion from Seville

Tomorrow

BBC2

1pm Grandstand Introduced by Sue Barker. 1.05 Rowing; 1.15 *Rallying;* 1.45, *4.15 Tennis;* 2.20, 3.40, 5.00 Cricket; 3.00 Racing

C4

2.55pm NBA 24/7 *Basketball* magazine introduced by Dave Lewis, Mark Webster and Scoop Jackson

C5

10.50pm Football Highlights of *Brazil's* World Cup warm-up against Athletic Bilbao

12.00 Motor Racing Round seven of the FedEx Championship series from Milwaukee

12.55 Live Baseball Atlanta Braves v Chicago Cubs

SKY SPORTS 1

1pm Live Golf Third Round of the Deutche Bank Open from Hamburg

6.30 Live Rugby League *The Super League clash* between St Helens and Leeds *(kick-off 6.35pm)*

8.30 Cycling Highlights of the eighth and final stage of the Prutour

SKY SPORTS 2

6pm Live American Football *The NFL Europe clash between* Frankfurt Galaxy and Scottish Claymores

SKY SPORTS 3

2pm Live Cricket Coverage of the *AXA League match between* Somerset and Warwickshire

6.00 Live Golf Fourth and final round of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village in Ohio

EUROSPORT

10am Live Motorcycling The 125cc, 250cc and 500cc French Grand Prix races

2pm Live Tennis The French Open from Roland Garros. Further coverage at 4pm. Highlights at 10.30pm

3.00 Live Cycling The Tour of Italy, *15th stage*

7.00 Live Football Spain and *Greece contest the final of the* Uefa Under-21 championship *(kick-off 7pm)*

Monday 1

BBC2

2.55pm Top Gear Motorsport Mark James and Tiff Needhall review the Argentinian Rally

SKY SPORTS 1

1pm Live Golf Fourth and final round of the Deutsche Bank Open from Hamburg

10.00 Sky Sports Centre Latest news round-up

SKY SPORTS 2

6.30pm Racing Four races from Windsor and four races from Thirsk

EUROSPORT

10am Live Tennis The French Open from Roland Garros. Further *coverage at 12.30pm and 4pm.* Highlights at 10pm

3pm Live Cycling The Tour of Italy, 16th stage

11.00 Boxing The NABU Junior-*lightweight clash* between the Mexicans Jorge Paez and Juan *Angel Macias*

Tuesday 2

C4

11.05pm Planet Football Steve Cram and Simon O'Brien continue their preview of the World Cup with a profile of *England's group rivals Romania.* The programme includes highlights of a match from Romania's premier cup competition

SKY SPORTS 1

8.30am Sky Sports Centre Latest news round-up

1.15am Golf Highlights of the Atlantic Power Northern Open

SKY SPORTS 2

8pm Golf Coverage of the LPGA Rochester International from *New York*

SKY SPORTS 3

5pm Golf Senior's action in the Philips PFA Classic from the Marriot Moorn Hotel, *Southampton*

10.00 Superboxing The 1987 fight *between Sugar Ray Leonard* and Marvin Hagler in Las Vegas

EUROSPORT

9.30am Live Cycling The Tour of Italy, 17th stage. Further *coverage at 3pm.*

11.00 Live Tennis Coverage of the *French Open.* Further coverage at 4pm. Highlights at 10pm

7pm Football An analysis of the teams who will contest Group C in the World Cup. The group comprises France, South Africa, Saudi Arabia and Denmark

8.00 Live Boxing The middleweight clash between Darren Sweeney of Ireland and the Hungarian Andreas Gaal

Wednesday 3

ITV

8pm Des O'Connor's World Cup Party Tony Blair, Elton John and All Saints are among the guests who chat with Des about their involvement with football in a one-off special

C4

2.00am NBA Finals The top match between the champions of the Eastern and Western Conferences

C5

12.20am Live Baseball Coverage of a top match from the Major League

SKY SPORTS 1

8.30am Sky Sports Centre Latest news round-up

2pm Live Rugby Union South West Districts v Ireland from George, South Africa *(kick-off 2.15pm)*

10.00 Sky Sports Centre Latest news round-up

SKY SPORTS 2

6.30pm Racing Four races from Chester and four races from Beverley

11.30 Golf *Highlights of the Philips* PFA Classic from Southampton

EUROSPORT

11am Live Tennis The French Open. The second two men's quarter-finals. *Further coverage at 4pm.* Highlights at 11pm

3pm Live Cycling *The Tour of Italy,* 18th stage

9.00 Live Football Spain v Northern Ireland from Santander *(kick-off 9.00pm)*

Thursday 4

BBC1

10.50am Live Cricket Coverage of the *first day of the first Test* between England and South Africa from Edgbaston. Introduced by Tony Lewis with commentary from Ritchie Benaud, David Gower, Chris Broad and Barry Richard. Coverage continues at 1.35pm and 3pm on BBC2 and 2.40pm *on BBC1. Highlights on BBC2 at* 11.15pm

SKY SPORTS 1

8.30am Sky Sports Centre Latest news round-up

10.30 Live Golf Second round coverage of the English Open from Ware, Hertfordshire

7.30pm Live Rugby League Halifax Blue Sox v Hull Sharks *(kick-off 7.45)*

10.00 Sky Sports Centre Latest news round-up

8.30am Live Rugby Union New South Wales v Scotland from Sydney *(kick-off 5.30am)*

SKY SPORTS 2

6.30pm Racing Four races from Goodwood and four races from Haydock

SKY SPORTS 3

7pm Golf: Inside the Senior PGA Tour An inside look at the week's events on the veteran's circuit

EUROSPORT

12noon Live Tennis The French Open. Coverage of the men's singles semi-finals. Further coverage at 2.30pm. *Highlights at* 11pm

5pm Cycling The Tour of Italy, 20th stage

7.00 Football An analysis of the *teams who will contest Group F* in the World Cup finals. The group comprises Germany, USA, Yugoslavia and Iran

8.00 Motor Racing A preview of this weekend's Le Mans 24-hour race

10.30am Live Golf Coverage of the first day of the English Open at Marriot Hanbury Manor in Ware, Hertfordshire. Highlights on Sky Sports 3 at 7pm

10pm Sky Sports Centre Latest news round-up

EUROSPORT

9.30am Live Cycling The Tour of Italy, 19th stage. Update at 5pm

1pm Live Tennis The French Open *from Roland Garros. The* women's semi-finals. *Highlights at 10pm*

6.30pm Football A repeat of the 1982 World Cup semi-final between *France and West Germany in* Spain. The match was the first in the history of the World Cup finals to be settled by a penalty shoot-out and included the notorious collision between Harald Schumacher and Patrick Battiston

Friday 5

BBC1

10.50am Live Cricket Coverage of the second day of the first Test between England and South Africa from Edgbaston. Introduced by Tony Lewis with commentary from Ritchie Benaud, David Gower, Chris Broad and Barry Richard. *Coverage continues at 1.35pm* on BBC2. Highlights on BBC2 at 11.15pm

C4

1.55pm Racing Four races from *Epsom including the Vodafone* Coronation Cup at 2.45pm

SKY SPORTS 1

8.30am Sky Sports Centre Latest news round-up

10.30 Live Golf Second round coverage of the English Open from Ware, Hertfordshire

7.30pm Live Rugby League Halifax Blue Sox v Hull Sharks *(kick-off 7.45)*

10.00 Sky Sports Centre Latest news round-up

8.30am Live Rugby Union New South Wales v Scotland from Sydney *(kick-off 5.30am)*

SKY SPORTS 2

6.30pm Racing Four races from Goodwood and four races from Haydock

SKY SPORTS 3

7pm Golf: Inside the Senior PGA Tour An inside look at the week's events on the veteran's circuit

EUROSPORT

12noon Live Tennis The French Open. Coverage of the men's singles semi-finals. Further coverage at 2.30pm. *Highlights at* 11pm

5pm Cycling The Tour of Italy, 20th stage

7.00 Football An analysis of the *teams who will contest Group F* in the World Cup finals. The group comprises Germany, USA, Yugoslavia and Iran

8.00 Motor Racing A preview of this weekend's Le Mans 24-hour race

Terrestrial pick of the week

England v South Africa, BBC1, Thursday and Friday, 10.50am

Alec Stewart could have chosen easier opportunities to cut his teeth as England's captain. South Africa's pace attack looks awesomely well-drilled and for the five-day game, Stewart needs Darren Gough to play substantial Test cricket more than ever.



Satellite pick of the week

Spain v Northern Ireland, Santander, Wednesday, 9pm

Spain are many of the pre-tournament favourites to go far in the World Cup despite their history of underachievement. Coach Javier Clemente could do no more in preparation against a team which looks apparently improving under Lawrie Sanchez.



Peripheral vision

Des O'Connor's World Cup Party, ITV, Wednesday, 8pm

With cameos about Tony Blair, Elton John, Des Lynam and the other guests due on for the game, Des O'Connor's biggest coup has been enticing All Saints (right) to wax lyrical about their footballing fantasies in this bizarre one-off.



Results

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP WARM-UP (Pula): Croatia 1 *Slovakia 2.*

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Sydney City 4 Newcastle 20; Penrith 28 North Queensland 36.

GOLF

DEUTSCHE BANK-SAP OPEN (Hamburg): **First-round scores** (GB/Ire unless stated): **68** P McGinley. **69** P Mitchell. **67** J Spence; S Allen (Aus); M O'Meara (US); G Chalmers (Aus); E Canonica (It); D Edlund (Swe); B Langer (Ger); M Gronberg (Swe); B May (US); M James; C Montgomerie; D Clarke; P Mulcahy (Aus); J Van de Velde (Fr). **68** R Goosen (SA); P Broadhurst; P Lawrie; M Roe; P Eales; S Torrance; A Cejka (Ger); A Coltart; R Wessels (SA); K Tomori (Japan); P Quirici (Switz). **69** T Bjorn (Den); D Borrego (Sp); J Rivero (Sp); J Singh (India); P Walton; P Harrington; P Senior (Aus); D Howell; E Simsek (Ger); L Westwood; I Woosnam; J-M Olazabal (Sp); M-A Jimenez (Sp); B Davis; J Sandelin (Swe); J Haeggman (Swe); R Russell. **70** H Thul (Ger); M Davis; S Henderson; J Caceres (Arg); N Fasth (Swe); W Westner (SA); A Oldcorn; D Gilford; C Rocca (It); R Jacquelin (Fr); P Price; S Alker (NZ); D Carter; A Hunter; J Payne; K Eriksson (Swe); M Tunnicliff; N Price (Zim); P-U Johansson (Swe); R Burns; J Robson; I Garbutt; T Sogelo (Ger); M Mouland; M Hallberg (Swe); R Rafferty. **71** P Markusang (Thai); C Monk (Ger); B Lane; R Davis (Aus); M Mackenzie; D Tapping; A Wall; R Claydon; I Pyman; R Boxall; P Haugsrud (Nor); R Chapman; P Baker; K Brink. (Swe); S Bridge; G Orr; T Levet (Fr); N Joakimides (Fr). **72** W Riley (Aus); Y Kaya (Tur); D Hospital (Sp); S Struwer (Ger); A Forsbrand (Swe); S Ballesteros (Sp); P Sjoland (Swe); J Townsend (US); S Luna (Sp); A Cabrera (Arg); S Webster; M Farry (Fr); G Brand jnr; P Fulke (Swe); D Chopra (Swe); S Kjeldsen (Den); E Darcy; D Cooper. **73** F Jacobson (Swe); C Hanallna (US); T Hennig (Ger); V Phillips; M Reale (It); D Smyth; P Lonard (Aus); S Richardson; S Cage; N Vanhootegem (Bel); G Evans; C Watts; F Tarnaud (Fr); P Hedblom (Swe); M Jonzon (Swe); D Robertson; M Long (NZ); C Suneson (Sp). **74** A Sherborne; M McNulty (Zim); R Allenby (Aus); J Lomas; G Turner (NZ); K Storgaard (Den); R McFarlane; G Owen; S Rale; A Kankkonen (Fin); P Affleck. **75** M Amort (Ger); I Garrido (Sp); S Tinning (Den); R Green (Aus); C Whitelaw (SA); S Leaney (Aus); T Johnstone (Zim); M Florioli (It), R Gellenberg (Ger); J Remsey (Fr). **76** D Lynn; O Karlsson (Swe); P Drewes (Ger); S Dunlap (US); L Jahn (Ger); T Gillis (US). **77** M Newell (Ger); S Grappesonni (It); R Coles; M Gates. **78** L Spencer.

MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT (Dublin, Ohio): **First-round leaders** (US unless stated): **66** D Love; S Pate; T Dodds (Nam); J Sindelar. **67** K Triplett; A Magee; C Stadler; P Stewart; T Tryba; E Els (SA); G Kraft. **68** M Brooks; L Janzen; H Frazar; L Mattiace; F Couples; S Jones; T Lehman; M Calcavecchia. **69** D Forsman; B Gelberger; J Huston; J Haas; G Hjertstedt (Swe); S Dutgley; J Leonard. **Also 71** F Nobilo (NZ); N Faldo (GB). **72** D Frost (SA). **73** J Parnevik (Swe); V Singh (Fiji). **74** E Toledo (Mex). **75** S Appleby (Aus); N "Joe" Ozaki (Japan). **76** W Grady (Aus). **77** R Karlsson (Swe).

ENGLISH LADIES AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Walton Heath, Surrey): **Quarter-finales** E Ratcliffe (Sandhway) bt K Rostron (Clitheroe) 4&3; K Stapples (Royal Cinque Ports) bt C Court (Goodwood) 3&2; S Heath (Telford) bt K Knowles (Worplesdon) 4&3; L Walters (Chevin) bt K Fisher (Royal Lytham and St Annes) 2&1. **Semi-finals:** Ratcliffe bt Stapples 1up; Walters bt Heath 3&2.

TENNIS

FRENCH OPEN (Paris): **Men: Second round: M Gremy** (Arg) bt G Pozzi (It) 6–2, 6–3, 3–6, 5–7, 11–9; **M Gustafsson** (Swe) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6–4, 6–3, 6–7, 6–1; **D Vacek** (Cz) bt J-M Gambill (US) 6–4, 2–6, 7–5, 7–6; **F Clavet** (Sp) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 6–2, 5–4, 6–7, 6–1; **A Corretja** (Sp) bt F Vicente (Sp) 6–3, 6–2, 6–3; **J Stoltenberg** (Aus) bt P Rafter (Aus) 6–4, 2–6, 6–3, 6–2; **A Berasategui** (Sp) bt G Solves (Fr) 6–3, 3–6, 6–3, 6–4; **D Hrbaty** (Slovak) bt J Albert Vilces (Sp) 6–3, 6–3, 6–3; **M Chang** (US) bt J Van Lottum (Neth) 7–5, 6–2, 3–0 (ret); **M Safin** (Rus) bt G Kuerten (Br) 3–6, 7–5, 3–6, 6–1, 6–4. **Third round: M Rios** (Chile) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6–1, 3–3 (ret); **C Moya** (Sp) bt A Ille (Aus) 6–2, 7–6, 1–6, 6–3; **A Costa** (Sp) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 6–3, 6–3, 6–0; **T Muster** (Aut) bt C Van Garsse (Bel) 6–2, 4–6, 7–6, 6–2; **F Mantilla** (Br) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 7–5, 6–3, 6–2.

Women: Second round: M Diaz-Oliva (Arg) bt Sung-hee Park (SKor) 6–2, 5–2; **S Farina** (It) bt J Kruger (SA) 4–6, 6–3, 6–0; **P Schnyder** (Switz) bt J Halard-Decugis (Fr) 6–3, 3–6, 6–1; **I Majoli** (Cro) bt N Zvereva (Bela) 6–3, 6–4. **Third round: C Rubin** (US) bt M Seeki (Japan) 6–3, 6–4; **M Seles** (US) bt B Schwartz (Aut) 6–1, 7–5; **M Hingova** (Slovak) bt N Dechy (Fr) 7–5, 3–5, 6–1; **A Kournikova** (Rus) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6–0, 6–0; **V Williams** (US) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 6–2, 6–1; **A Sanchez-Vicario** (Isr) bt B Ritzner (Ger) 1–6, 6–4, 6–1; **M Hingis** (Switz) bt K Habsudova (Slovak) 6–3, 6–2; **J Novotna** (Cz) bt E Tatarkova (Ukr) 6–3, 7–6.

ATHLETICS

ALL-TERRAIN MARATHON: Seaton Sluice One Mile Time Trials 1. D Burrows (Birchfield) 4min 21sec; 2. A Passey (Bromsgrove) 4.27; 3. S Duval (Cannock) 4.29; 4. B Royden (Medway) 4.32; 5. P Freary (Bolton) 4.33; 6. P O'Callaghan (Birchfield) 4.34; 7. K Tadesse (Bedgrave) 4.35; 8. A Pearson (Longwood), A Kreslianinov (Rus), B Rushworth (Sunderland) 4.36. **Overall standings** (after five events). 1. Passey 1hr 36min 26sec, 2, Pearson 1.36.31; 3, Burrows 1.38.04; 4, Robison 1.38.40; 5, Murray 1.38.53; 6, Tadesse 1.39.23; 7, Bell 1.39.30; 8, Pugsley 1.39.48; 9, Krespotninov 1.40.00; 10, Rushworth 1.40.41.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 5 Texas 2; Detroit 7 Chicago WS 11 (10inns); Tampa Bay 2 Seattle 5; Toronto 2 Cleveland 6; NY Yankees 8 Boston 3. **NATIONAL LEAGUE:** St Louis 4 Colorado 1; Chicago Cubs 7 Philadelphia 6; Atlanta 5 Montreal 9; Los Angeles 4 Cincinnati 3; San Francisco 7 Arizona 8.

CYCLING

GIRO D'ITALIA: Stage 13 (Carpi to Schio; 166km): 1, M Bartoli (It) Asics 3hr 58min 2sec; 2, G Guerini (It) Polti; 3, P Bettini (It) Asics both same time; 4, A Noe (It) Asics at 3sec; 5, D Rebellin (It) Polti 16; 6, J Luis Rubiera (Sp) Kelme; 7, N Miceli (It) Riso Scotti; 8, J Carlos Dominguez (Sp) Vitalicio; 9, O Camenzind (Switz) Mapei; 10, L Leblanc (Fr) Polti; 11, P Tonkov (Rus) Mapei; 12, M Pantani (It) Mercatone Uno all st; 13, M Velo (It) Mercatone Uno 17; 14, A Zuelle (Switz) Festina 24; 15, S Gonchar (Ukr) Carina Tollo; 16, R Forconi (It) Mercatone Uno both st; 17, W Belli (It) Festina 25; 18, A Tronca (It) Ballan st; 19, G Faresin (It) Mapei 59; 20, F Gougot (Fr) Casino st. **Leading overall standings** 1. Noe 62hr 39min 14sec; 2, Bartoli at 6sec; 3, Zuelle 37; 4, Camenzind st; 5, Rubiera 43; 6, Roux 49; 7, Guerini 1.15; 8, Leblanc 1.19; 9, Pantani 1.20; 10, Tonkov, 1.21; 11, A Zintchenko (Rus) Vitalicio 1.31; 12, Miceli 1.32; 13, Rebellin 1.45; 14, P Lanfranchi (It) Mapei 1.48; 15, Gonchar 2.05.

TOUR OF BRITAIN: Stage Six (Bristol to Reading; 146km): 1, V Ekimov (Rus) US Postal Service 3hr 30min 17sec; 2, S O'Grady (Aus) Gan at 1sec; 3, A Korff (Ger) Festina; 4, C Dacruz (Fr) Bigmat Auber 93; 5, C Boardman (GB) Gan; 6, N Stephens (Aus) Festina; 8, B Smith (Scot) National team; 9, T Hamilton (US) US Postal Service; 10, M Backstedt (Swe) Gan at same time. **Leading overall standings:** 1, S O'Grady (Aus) Gan 21hr 17min 04sec; 2, Boardman at 36sec; 3, D Baranowski (Pol) US Postal Service 48; 4, N Stephens (Aus) Festina 59; 5, T Hamilton (US) US Postal Service 1.17; 6, C Dacruz (Fr) Bigmat Auber 93 1.25; 7, S Berges (Fr) Bigmat Auber 93 1.40; 8, C Newton (GB) Brita 1.55; 9, N Borgensen (Den) National team 1.24; 10, M Backstedt (Swe) Gan 2.11.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: Play-off finals: Eastern Conference: Buffalo 3 Washington 4 (at; Washington lead series 2–1).

HOCKEY

WORLD CUP (Utrecht): **Women: Classification games: 5th–8th:** New Zealand 3 South Africa 1; South Korea 2 United States 0. **9th–12th:** Scotland 5 India 3; England 3 China 0.

EVENING RACING

Bath

6.25 (1m 5f 46yds): 1, COSMOSEUR BAY, J Reid (1–3 Fav); **2, Way Out Yonder** (3–1); **3, Henry Heald** (33–1). 8 ran. 8, 20. (P Chapple-Hyam) Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £1.50. Dual F: £1.20. CSF: £1.36.

Stratford

6.10 (2m 5f 110yds): 1, TIGHT FIST, R Farrant (20–1); **2, Storm Head** (9–1); **3, Barford Sovereign** (9–2 Fav). 17 ran. Hd, 8. (Miss H Knight) Tote: £29.80; £5.80, £2.80, £2.50. Dual F: £105.90. Trio: £168.50. CSF: £168.26. Tricast: £875.43. NR: Sallygriffin Lad, Orchestral Suite, Russell Island.

● *Honda's Phillip McCallen, an 11-times TT winner,* has withdrawn from next *month's motorcycle races on the Isle* of Man because of a back injury sustained *earlier this month. The 34-year-old Ul*sterman has a crushed vertebra and a displaced vertebra *following a crash at* Thruxton on May 4.

● The reigning champion Kim Rostron *crashed out of the English Ladies Am*ateur Golf Championship at Walton Heath, Surrey, yesterday when she went down 4 and 3 to Elaine Ratcliffe, the *25-year-old Cheshire champion whom* Rostron beat in the final at Seunton a year ago.

Ratcliffe powered into a four-hole advantage by the turn and now meets her fellow Curtis Cup player Karen Stupples from Kent, who produced a splendid mid-round burst to get past Goodwood's Chloe Court by 3 and 2. Stupples was one down after seven but won five holes in a row to take command.

The Shropshire schoolgirl Sarah Heath became one of the youngest ever semi-finalists when the 16-year-old Telford girl showed a clean pair of heels to Kerry Knowles and ran out a 4 and 3 winner. Heath, last year's Shropshire champion, got off to a dream start, winning three of the first five holes.

The real reason why the Love Jockey won't pick Ginola: he's the only man in France who doesn't wear deodorant

THIS SPORTING **LIFE**

Harry Pearson



TO CELEBRATE the start of the World Cup, Paris is to witness an extravaganza featuring four 65ft giants and 4,500 people dressed as metal ostriches, termite mounds and chess pieces. The giants will move along on a pair of fork-lift trucks linked with wire to moderate their stride. Many people have wondered what these towering dummies have to do with football. They have obviously never seen Carlton Palmer.

Michel Platini once noted sadly: "Other countries have fans, France has spectators." It is clear, however, that this rather jaundiced view is no longer applicable. As the Paris giants demonstrate, the French have embraced the World Cup with what Barry Davies, a Francophile so consummate it would be no surprise to discover he is married to a croissant, would undoubtedly describe as "typical Gallic flair". In honour of the *Coupe du Monde* they are holding parades, organising cultural events and spontaneously and exuberantly doubling the prices of hotel rooms.

With such footy fever currently sweeping their nation it is little wonder that the French edition of the women's magazine Marie Claire has felt moved to produce a World Cup supplement. The glossy document steers away from the by now familiar fail-safe mix of fixture lists, adverts for the sponsor colon-Eze, "Official diarrhoea medicine of France 98", and fascinating facts about the competing nations' football history ("leading scorer in Mexico, West German Gerd Müller, once owned a tent") and instead enlightens readers with special recipes, a suspender belt selection, make-up tips and pictures of David Ginola with his shirt off.

Ginola has not actually been picked to play in the World Cup, of course (a fact we will undoubtedly be reminded of at regular intervals by John Motson in full "and-you-have-to-ask" mode), but this is of little consequence when set against the Spurs man's radiant pulchritude. Ginola tells Marie Claire that he does not wear deodorant and feels women should be attracted to sweat and bristles. I am not sure if this is true, but it is clearly a big morale boost for broom salesmen everywhere.

As if the sight of Ginola's pectorals were not enough to fire the imagination of its readers Marie Claire has also enlisted the help of an ethnographer, Christian Bromberger, to explain what football is all about. Naturally enough, since this is what ethnographers are paid for, Bromberger tells readers that football is actually a metaphor for something more primal. This is probably true, but for the sake of variety it would be nice if every once in a while an anthropologist would conclude that, say, warfare is just an elaborate ritualised form of football.

On the field of play Bromberger says sternly: "Sexual connotations are omnipresent". Each team guards its own goal which it has to keep "virgin" and "unviolated".

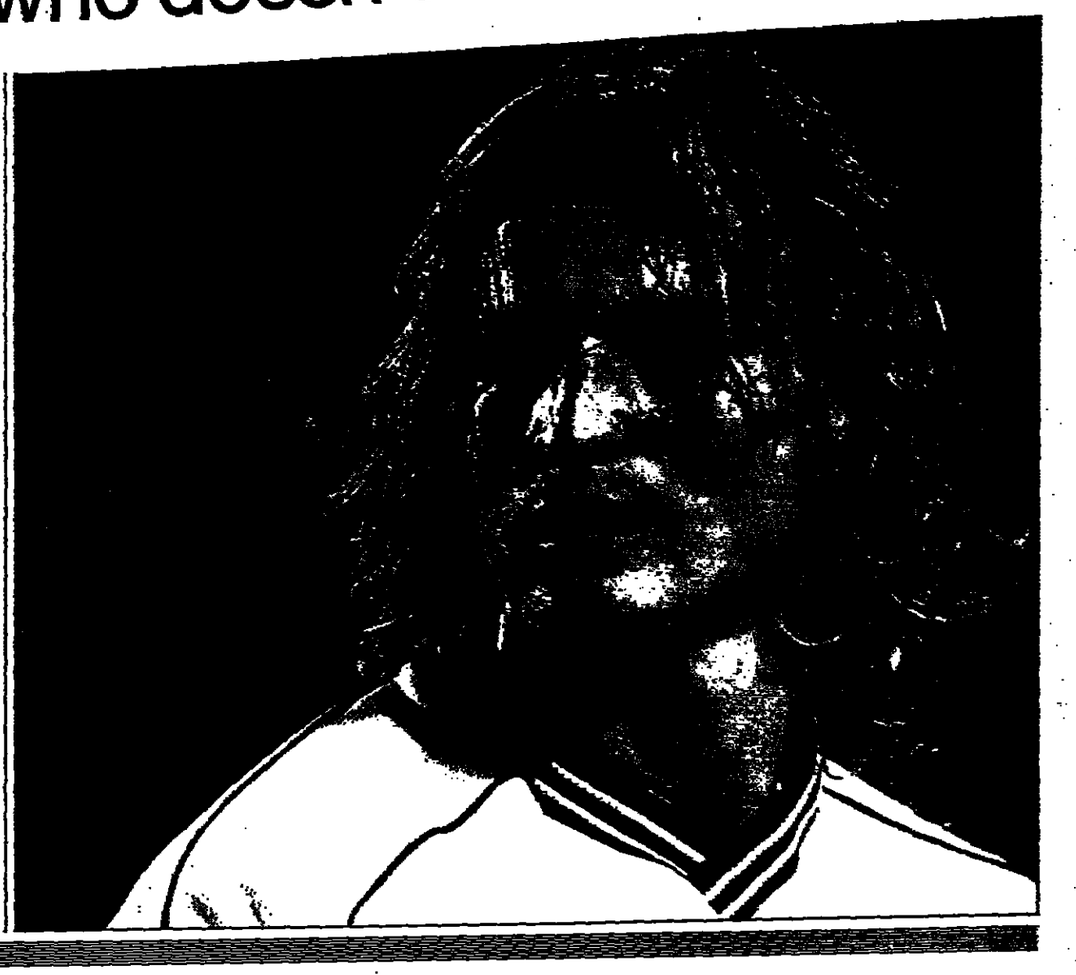
You may feel that the idea of a group of footballers struggling to preserve the virginity of anything, whether it be animal, vegetable, mineral or allegorical, is somewhat unlikely, but Bromberger is untainted by such cynicism. Scoring a goal, he observes dryly, "is often linked to orgasm".

It is easy to see why an anthropologist might come to such a conclusion. As Bromberger says, the field is indeed littered with sexual imagery. The centre-circle is breast-like, the opposition centre-back a clear phallic symbol, and the over-zealous protection of the goalkeeper by the referee can only truly be explained as subconscious recognition that the penalty area is a womb and the custodian the fragile figure of the unborn child.

In the end, though, I have to conclude that being French has led Bromberger to overplay his hand. I do so not through any clichéd view of French sexual habits, but in acknowledgment of the fact that *Les Bleus* are the only team in the competition managed by a man, Aimé Jacquet, whose name sounds like it could translate as Love Jockey.

The French ethnographer is surely also neglecting an important historical detail: that football was invented by the British. If Bromberger had taken this information on board he would surely have paused to rethink his lubricious thesis and concluded that far from representing the peak of sexual ecstasy the goal is actually more likely to be a "nice hot cup of tea".

Obviously very important goals might be something a good deal more thrilling than that. For example a last-minute winner in a semi-final against Germany, having been 3-0 down at half-time, could conceivably rate as "a comfy jumper and a Bourbon biscuit", but that surely should be as far as it goes.



Stinker . . . David Ginola, whose pectorals fail to disguise his peculiar hygiene habits

Rugby League

Australian international has confirmed Warriors' interest

Two are targeted by Wigan

Andy Wilson

WIGAN have targeted the Australian international Greg Florimo and the Sheffield Eagles prop Dale Laughton after their failure to sign Wendell Sailor from Brisbane.

Florimo, a 1994 Kangaroo tourist, confirmed Wigan's approach yesterday in Sydney, and the Sheffield coach John Kear accepted that the Eagles face a battle to retain Laughton, 28, whom he described as "the best prop in Super League".

Laughton, aged 28, is contracted to the Eagles until the end of next season. But if reports of a huge Wigan contract offer are true, this represents the first test of the Sheffield directors' ambition since their shock Challenge Cup triumph earlier this month.

"If Wigan do make an offer we can't refuse for Dale, I would want a suitable replacement before we let him go," said Kear.

Sheffield may be without Matt Crowther, their form winger, for the rest of the season after keyhole surgery yesterday diagnosed serious medial-ligament damage to his knee.

In tomorrow's games, Marc Glanville will replace the suspended Adrian Morley in Leeds's second row at St Helens. Morley was found guilty of a high tackle at Sheffield last week, banned for one match and fined £250. Glanville missed the Sheffield game after being concussed against Wigan two weeks ago.

Steve Barrow, who joined Hull on loan from Wigan this week, will make his debut against his former teammates. Jason Temu returns from suspension at prop and David Bailldon switches from wing to centre to replace the injured Graeme Hallas.

Wigan have Darryl Cardiss starting at scrum-half in place of Tony Smith, Super League's leading try-scorer. Smith will be out for at least two weeks with a knee injury.

Huddersfield, who against Warrington are looking for their first win since promotion to the Super League, were cheered by the news that their Australian captain Danny Russell has signed a new three-year contract with the club.

Castleford have major injury problems as they attempt to bounce back from last Friday's 52-10 mauling by Bradford at Salford. Jason Flowers, who had a personal nightmare at full-back, is out with an ankle injury and will be replaced by Richard Gay, and the props Dean Sampson and Mike Smith face late fitness tests. But Danny Orr has recovered from a back problem and returns at hooker in place of Martin Hall, who has returned to Wigan after a month's loan.

The eight Second Division teams have entered the second phase of their season with the start of the White Rose and Red Rose Championships. The games west of the Pennines will have an important bearing on the three promotion places to the First Division, with Lancashire Lynx facing Oldham at Preston Grasshoppers' ground while Barrow Border Raiders aim to complete a double over their Cumbrian rivals Workington Town.

In Australia the Newcastle Knights have announced that the veteran coach Warren Ryan will succeed Malcolm Reilly when the former Great Britain coach returns home at the end of the season.

Hull's need for a tall-poppy day

Andy Wilson on the Sharks' attempt to cut Super League's bigger names down to size, starting with Wigan tomorrow

THESE are difficult times for David Lloyd's Hull Sporting Club. Hull City FC ended their first season under the ownership of Britain's Davis Cup tennis captain at the wrong end of the Third Division, and the Hull Sharks are adapting to Super League only slightly more successfully than Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski have to clay.

After victories over Wembley-bound Sheffield and London, the Sharks have lost their last five. Few would bet against that run extending to eight over the next three weeks, with Halifax away and Leeds at home to come after tomorrow's visit of Wigan.

"Losing to Warrington on Monday was an absolute bloody disaster," admits Michael Appleton, the former managing director of David Lloyd Leisure who was brought from the City to run Lloyd's Hull operations last year. "Not only was it a blow to our hopes of finishing in the top five and making the play-offs but it took at least two thousand off the crowd for the Wigan game."

Appleton hails from Oldham, played tennis for Lancashire for 22 years and first came across Lloyd playing against Essex. Now in Hull, "I'm here to save Lloyd money," he says. "That doesn't necessarily mean making cuts. For example we spent a lot of money on signing Alan Hunte. But that was justified by the extra season tickets we would sell as a result."

A sell-out for last month's visit of Bradford, and another virtually guaranteed against Leeds in a fortnight, suggest that rugby league represents a safer investment than football on Humberside. It will cost Lloyd and Appleton less to build a team capable of challenging for Super League honours than they would have to give Mark Hateley, their football lieutenant, even to escape the Nationwide League's basement.

For Appleton, that is not the only appeal of Super League. He also contrasts the 12 Super League clubs' control over their own destiny —each has an equal share in the marketing company Super League Europe in addition to a slice of the central funds — with the situation which persists in soccer.

"I go to Football League and FA meetings and they're just a nightmare. You sit there, just a small pawn, and you can't really voice an opinion.

"With Super League it's different. I like [Maurice] Lindsay and I like [Chris] Caisley; look at the success he's had with Bradford. Then you've got [Gary] Hetherington, who is not an unsmart guy, at Leeds, and Dave Howes at St Helens. All real solid guys making quick business decisions." He cites the probable awarding of a franchise for next season to Gateshead, and possibly one in South Wales, as evidence of that.

For the doubters who suspect Lloyd's motives — whose fears were hardly assuaged when he threatened to walk away on the eve of the season and agreed to stay only on the basis that he owned the players and loaned them back to the club — Appleton displays an encouragingly long-term view. "We're not where we would want to be at the moment but, with a few more players, next season we could be," he said.

Roland Garros: Temple of tennis and style

Safin is champion

Stephen Bierley in Paris

MARAT SAFIN, the 18-year-old qualifier from Moscow, continues to rise as quickly as the Russian interest rates. Having made an impressive entrance by beating Andre Agassi in the first round, Safin bestrode the Centre Court at Roland Garros yesterday and sent Brazil's No. 8 seed Gustavo Kuerten, the reigning champion, scurrying to a five-set defeat.

Last year it was Kuerten who emerged from relative obscurity, as a string-bean 20-year-old, to take Paris in a yellow-and-blue samba storm. He was then ranked No. 66 in the world; Safin currently stands at 176.

Kuerten gained a reputation at the French Open as the king of the nail-biting five-setters, his determination to go for the lines never wavering, his confidence unassailable. Now Safin has followed in his footsteps, beating Agassi 6-2 in the fifth set on Tuesday, and this time again holding his nerve for a marvellously impressive 3-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory.

Those who delve into the record books decided that two records were set at Roland Garros yesterday. First Safin, by beating Kuerten, became the first qualifier to knock out a defending champion in the open era at a Grand Slam. Second, only one of the top eight seeds survived the first two rounds, the favourite, Marcelo Rios of Chile.

Pat Rafter, the No. 4 seed and a semi-finalist last year, was another loser yesterday, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 to his fellow Australian Jason Stoltenberg. John McEnroe recently suggested Rafter might be a one-Slam wonder, having won last year's US Open, and he may be right.

Thursday's rain had given Safin a further 24 hours to recover from the rigours of his match against Agassi. The youngster had suggested that he might be too tired to put up much of a show against Kuerten, and the way he moved in the first set suggested his worst fears might be realised, although it may have been nerves that accounted for his sluggish start.

Had Kuerten been able to convert four break-points in the second set, this second-round match might have swung sharply against the Muscovite, but Safin blasted his way out of trouble to square the match. He hits the ball with quite awesome power off both sides.

Kuerten really knows only one way to play, and that is to attack. But the velocity of his shots often appeared weak by comparison with those of the 6ft 4in Safin.

"I think Gustavo was nervous in the important moments of the match," said Safin, who as a small boy played alongside Anna Kournikova in Moscow. Kournikova, who yesterday defeated Sweden's Asa Carlsson 6-0, 6-0 to reach the last 16, left for Florida when she was nine, whereas Safin took up residence in Valencia four years ago.

He has not become an archetypal Spanish player in terms of shot production, although against Agassi he showed he can scramble from the baseline with the best of them. "Everything has been going in during the last two matches," said Safin, who recalls memories of the boy-man Boris Becker winning Wimbledon as a 17-year-old in 1985.

"It's just luck," added Safin. "Maybe tomorrow everything will go out." Certainly Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic will hope so: he will play Safin today in a third-round match.

Rios became the first player to reach the last 16 when South Africa's Wayne Ferreira, at 6-1, 3-3 down, badly turned his right ankle and had to default, as he did here last year with a similar injury. The Chilean's next opponent will be the No. 13 seed, Albert Costa, whom he was scheduled to meet in the Italian Open final before the Spaniard had to cry off with an injured wrist.

Switzerland's Martina Hingis, the No. 1 seed and beaten finalist here last year, moved closer to a potentially explosive quarter-final match against Venus Williams of the United States. Hingis defeated Slovakia's Karina Habsudova 6-3, 6-2 in her third-round match and Williams demolished Alexia Dechaume-Balleret of France 6-2, 6-1.

With the men's field having been blown apart in the first five days, the focus of attention will now be on the women, notably Hingis, the Williams sisters, and Kournikova.



Where a little savoir faire is just the billet

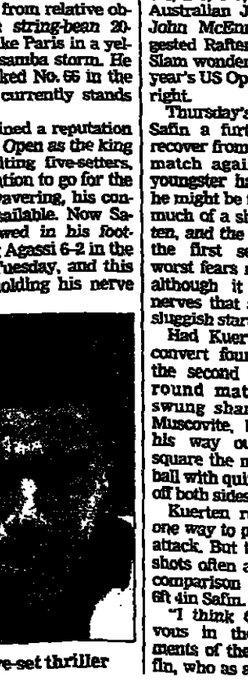
Words by Stephen Bierley
Photograph by Tom Jenkins

"CHERCHEZ les places?" Even the ticket touts along the Avenue de la Porte d'Auteuil ply their trade in a refined fashion. There is no harsh "Who wants two together?" Money is exchanged with no more fuss than buying half a kilo of cherries in a market.

Such is Roland Garros in spring, for the French Open is by a long kilometre the most civilised of the four Grand Slam tournaments.

The 16th arrondissement is the richest in Paris and whether you arrive at the tennis by strolling along the Bois de Boulogne out of Auteuil, or taking the Metro, or whizzing (hopefully) around the périphérique, the *ambiance* of this part of the city settles quietly around your shoulders like a Chanel or an Yves St Laurent jacket.

The weather is important, and this first week has not been overly blessed with sunshine; even the chic can take on the sorry air of a drowned cat. But Roland Garros is rarely gloomy even when huge clouds settle above the red clay courts. And there is none of that enforced, jollity of the holiday camp, which often pervades Wimbledon's Centre Court.



Safin . . . five-set thriller

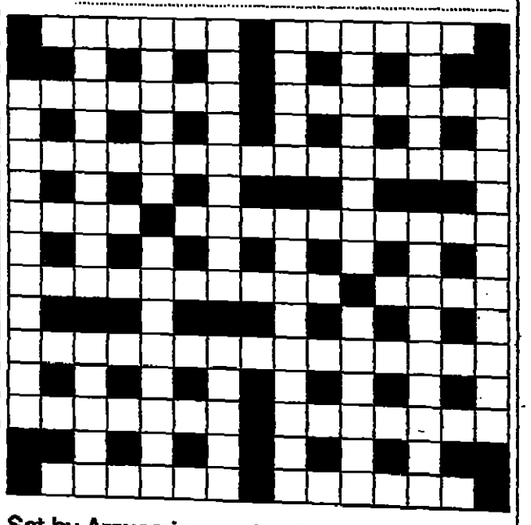
Guardian COLLINS Crossword 21,288

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to The Guardian Crossword, P.O. Box 14641, London, EC1R 3JX, or Fax to 0171 713 4735 by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday June 8.

Name .....

Address .....

.....



Set by Araucaria

Method: Solve the clues and fit the solutions into the diagram jigsaw-wise, wherever they will go

A A law of Rome and Queen's, imperial plant . . . (10)
B . . . with ragtime group: permitted (say) they aren't (4)
C Exam — in Irish girl, say — sleep-like state (7,8)
D Ignore the lower world and contemplate (9)
E The railway spirit Greece with anger fills (5)
F The Hay Wain's like, with wheels in distant hills (4,5)
G Ecologist and bigwig — hence the moon? (5,6)
H Have twenty winks at Pole, and twice at noon (4-1-5)
I The isle in church no longer learned at school (4)
J A sheep to spoil a meadow — ghost at Yule (5,6)
Same writer's lawyer, maybe of Stones' king (7)
K 'Tis Fred whose army rank disturbed the ring (5)
L Talk stately, as King Billy to Pretender? (4,1,5,5)
M A post chaise? One performance, mentioned gender (4-3)
N Is Roland breaking sticks of liquorice? (4-4)
O Applauded eggs and boy (facetious, this) (6)
P Is found in show, where live the blessed dead (8)
Q In big ship's turn-out, here is what was said (6)
R The life of struggle artists can detect (3,4)
S Relation nurses treat with some respect (6)
T Old city, nearly that which should be picked (6)
U The *Sun* is wrong, so always contradict (5)
V Sixth soldier's weapon, price of liberty (9)
W Now dream, now fashion for stupendous She (6,5)
X A fraction sets beast back exceedingly (1,4,1)
Y Not sleuths but criminals, I say — red's move (7)
Z The Stoic case for Tamburlaine to love (9)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,287

S	N	A	P	P	E	R		D	O	W	S	A	S	T
U		D		I		E		U		A		R		R
R	E	A	P	E	R	S		L	A	Y	E	T	T	E
G		I		C		I		L		E		I		S
E	N	D	L	E	S	S	L	Y		L	I	S	Z	T
O		O		T				O		A		L		
M	O	N	E	T		A	L	L	O	W	A	N	C	E
		O		N		A		I						
C	H	A	R	L	A	T	A	N		H	A	D	D	O
A		D		E				D						O
L	A	T	E	R		L	A	S	H	E	D	O	U	T
Y		R		A		C		X		V				E
P	N	I	N	T	E	R		A	N	T	W	E	N	T
S		D		Y		O		P		R		A		A
O	V	E	R	S	H	E		S	L	A	P	S	H	D

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